

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Kilili looking to insert language to protect NMI from oversight board

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) clarified on Friday that if U.S. Congress enacted an oversight board to manage Puerto Rico's fiscal crisis this would have "nothing to do" with any other territories or commonwealths and does not apply to the Northern Marianas at all.

But, he added, because of the uniformity requirement of Congressional legislation, Sablan said, the NMI would be included "in the authorization."

See KILILI on Page 4

**ON MOTION TO DECLARE
2016 BUDGET ACT
UNCONSTITUTIONAL**

OAG asks judge Camacho to stop further proceedings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General is requesting Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho to stop further proceedings pertaining to a motion to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay, counsel for the government, asserted that Camacho should stay further proceedings.

See OAG on Page 4



EARLY CHILDHOOD MONTH

Students, teachers, public officials, and representatives from partner agencies such as Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Let's Move Marianas, PSS Headstart Program, CNMI Childcare Providers Association, and Joeten Kiyu Public Library gathered as April was proclaimed Early Childhood Month by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog last Wednesday.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

**See story
on Page 6**

Derron Flores wants to pursue \$40M lawsuit vs bank, 2 ex-employees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The only child of former Saipan mayor Donald Flores and Cecilia Flores has asserted that the federal court should allow him to pursue his mother's \$40-million lawsuit against bank and its former employees.

Derron Gerard Flores, through counsel Juan T. Lizama, argued that the common law requires—and basic notions of justice urge—the court



to allow him to take over his mother's position to pursue her claims.

Lizama said this case concerns the property of Cecilia Flores, specifically, a certificate of deposit in the amount of \$200,000.

Cecilia Flores sued MUFG Union Bank, Ken Kato, and

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Derron Flores, left, with his father, the late Saipan mayor Donald Flores.

Victoria B. Concepcion over a bank manager's alleged unauthorized release of Donald Flores' money years prior to his death from his \$200,000 time certificate of deposit (CD) to a person representing him.

Lizama said the tortious actions of defendants MUFG Union Bank, Kato, and Concepcion concern that property and that defendants have impliedly recognized that the certificate of deposit is property.

See DERRON on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Pacific Asia Travel Association-Micronesia Chapter is inviting stakeholders in the CNMI to take part in the PATA-International annual summit.

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NATION

Keith Carey is a gunsmith but now he's a willing recruit in a fledgling effort to see if the gun community itself can help Colorado and other Western states reduce their highest-in-the-nation suicide rates.

» PAGE 15



LIFE & STYLE

Hollywood actor Leonardo DiCaprio may be banned from returning to Indonesia over his criticisms that palm oil plantations are destroying the country's rainforests and endangering wildlife.

» PAGE 21



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Local



JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, reads the proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault, and Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month, while Division of Youth Services administrator Vivian T. Sablan and members of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence look on in last Friday's signing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center in Susupe.



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Two victims speak out against abuse, violence against women

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It took a lot of guts and courage for two women who are victims of violence to speak out and tell their respective stories. Both were victims of sexual assault and they want the public to know of the abuse they have experienced.

The two women recalled every detail of the things that happened in their lives, the struggles, and how they faced those struggles in order to triumph in last Friday's proclamation signing by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres declaring April as Sexual Assault, and Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month. One turned her story into a poem.

Their stories drew tears and sympathy to a packed crowd—that included members of the CNMI Legislature, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, Superior Court Judge Kenneth L. Govendo Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence personnel, and Division of Youth Services administrator Vivian T. Sablan and her staff—at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center in Susupe.

Members from the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence applauded the two women for having the courage to speak out and tell their stories to the community.

The Northern Marianas Coal-

ition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence executive director, Maisie B. Tenorio, in an earlier email, said they teamed up again with the [Department of Community and Cultural Affairs] Division of Youth Services.

"To bring you a campaign focused on creating safety for all citizens of our Commonwealth, including those most vulnerable. We invite you to join us this April and throughout the year as we work to create a CNMI that is free of violence and abuse," said Tenorio.

Mayors David M. Apatang (Saipan) and Jerome K. Aldan (Northern Islands), Saipan Mayor's Office staff, members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, personnel from the Department of Public Safety—led by commissioner Robert Guerrero—and Department of Fire Emergency Medical Services, Police and Fire Academy cadets were also present.

Organizers of the event wanted to increase awareness, strength, and response against sexual assault and child abuse that's why they lined up various activities for the whole month.

They will be holding a weekly Walk Against Sexual Violence, hold talks to various schools to promote awareness to the students, and hold Project Prom Drive where they would collect prom dresses for the underprivileged.



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To Our Valued Guests:

Due to scheduled annual maintenance, the PIC Point Break will be closed from April 4 to 23, 2016 and will re-open on April 24, 2016. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

PIC Management

CUC starts developing local workforce with NMTI classes

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Training classes for the first batch of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power generation employees will begin today at the Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

According to NMTI Construction Trades director Rip Stephanson, the curriculum, which will have three modules, will last for about four and a half months.

The first module will last for two months and will deal with basic lessons such as safety, mathematics, construction math, construction drawings, materials handling, hand tools and power tools, and basic communication.

The second module will deal with lessons as required by the Department of Homeland Security.

"The reason we have to have that is because it's a requirement of the Patriot Act, that every critical infrastructure have people trained on site on security," Stephanson said.

Another two months of the training will deal with upper-level skills that specifically deal with power plant operations. This will include both the electrical and mechanical



Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting director Gary Camacho signs a memorandum of agreement between CUC and the Northern Marianas Trade Institute with Construction Trades director Rip Stephanson, right, and CUC human resources manager Andrew Orsini, left, as they begin training 15 employees from the power plant to enhance their skills in power generation.

aspects of the power plant.

"We have some very qualified that will be doing the instructing. Pretty much all the instructors are locals so they know the local culture is, how to explain things," Stephanson said.

From Monday to Friday, there will be three-hour classes in the morning, and in the afternoon, the participants are required to report to the power plant.

For the classes, Stephanson said NMTI is charging at a cost of \$70 per credit, which is equivalent to 15 hours

According to CUC human resources manager Andrew Orsini, 15 individuals will take part on the first batch with five representatives from Rota, one from Tinian, and nine from Saipan.

Most of these have been working for one or two years at CUC.

Aside from gaining knowledge and skills, the participants will be accredited by NMTI under the National Center for Construction Education and Research, and accreditations as recognized by the U.S. Department of La-

bor and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer.

They will also benefit in their current standing in their work.

"For completing these modules, our employees are going to be, so-called, awarded in terms of their salaries and their position title in CUC because that is progressive improvement as far as their skill-level," Orsini said.

Developing local workforce

Despite initially saying that foreign workers can apply to

take part in the program, no foreign workers will be part of the training as it is geared toward building CUC's labor force in preparation for the 2019 phasing out of Commonwealth-only workers, and NMTI requires that their students be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

"We wish we could [include foreign workers] but we wanted to be focused to accommodate the locals," Orsini said, "We want to be more ready than sorry. We don't know what will happen after 2019. We need to start

getting ready now."

In January, CUC's power generation staff was challenged as 21 foreign workers weren't able to work due to delays in their work permits. These are much-needed highly skilled individuals in various areas such as operations, technical, electrical, mechanical, and auxiliary.

Orsini said that those who will be undergoing the curriculum will have the skills that these foreign workers have.

CUC acting director Gary Camacho said that there is a need to develop their workforce as power demands is increase.

"We need to ensure that the development program even at the most basic levels have to be in place to prepare a labor force that's going to be moving forward with the technologies provided today at the work place," Camacho said.

"We intend to develop our local workforce and provide opportunities to the people of these islands, CUC has a number of different areas, services that it provides to the communities of the CNMI and understands the need to have a developed and well prepared staff," he added, "CUC is proud to be in partnership with NMTI."



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Coast Guard, AMVER vessel rescue 3 mariners

HONOLULU —The U.S. Coast Guard and AMVER crews rescued three mariners who had been missing for several days 200 miles northwest of Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati, Friday.

At 1 p.m., the motor vessel Woobong crew located the skiff with three men aboard outside of the designated search area while on their regular course. All three men

were transferred safely aboard the Woobong and are reported to be in good condition.

Coast Guard Command Center Honolulu watchstanders and the Woobong crew are coordinating with Response Coordination Center Nadi in Fiji and officials in Tarawa to facilitate transfer of the mari-

ners at the motor vessel's next port of call.

The Coast Guard received notification from RCC Fiji the men were overdue by three days, Wednesday. An HC-130 Hercules aircrew from Air Station Barbers Point, Oahu, Hawaii, was already in the region on another case and was directed

to search for the mariners. The help of commercial mariners in the area was also enlisted through the AMVER system and the use of an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast.

The search continues for an additional three men aboard a 20-foot skiff reported overdue by RCC Fiji, Thursday, also on a fishing trip from Tarawa to Maiana. The Hercules crew and AMVER ves-

sel crews are involved.

Mariners are reminded a properly registered electronic position indicating radio beacon can make a dramatic difference not only in being located, but in the amount of time spent at sea. EPIRBs use satellites, not line-of-site like VHF radios or cellular towers, increasing their range and reliability. They're highly accurate and once activated provide rescuers with excellent

location information for anyone in distress, significantly reducing on scene search time.

AMVER, sponsored by the Coast Guard, is a computer-based, voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities. With AMVER, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. **(PR)**

KILILI

From Page 1

tion to establish an oversight board."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier expressed concern that this bill would "impose" and "is infringing" the CNMI's self-government.

To "protect" the Commonwealth, Sablan said on Friday, he is watching the draft legislation closely and is asking, "for language that would protect us and the other territories from the application oversight board for Puerto Rico."

This language would entail "lack of effect on the Covenant" and "mutual consent" provisions.

"We are spearheading a letter or request to the Congressional research service joined by our colleagues American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands...to give us a greater understanding of this very complex situation," Sablan told reporters Friday.

"The uniformity clause essentially says that if you introduce a major piece of legislation to one commonwealth or territory then the same should be applied to the rest of the other territories or Commonwealth."

"A lack of effect on the Covenant" language basically says that the law does not take away anything from the NMI Covenant. This language was

used when Congress authorized the position of delegate for the NMI to Congress.

"The legislation that provides an oversight board for Puerto Rico does not, in any way, form, or matter, set an oversight board for the NMI. But it also opens up a path for eventually in the future—if Congress deems it necessary" to establish an oversight board for the NMI, Sablan said. This is where the mutual consent requirement to establish the board would come in.

The bill, to establish a five-member board to oversee Puerto Rico's fiscal crisis, or what Sablan calls essentially a "fourth branch" of government for Puerto Rico, is being considered to prevent Puerto Rico's current fiscal problems from descending into a humanitarian crisis.

Puerto Rico has amassed a debt of over \$70 billion.

Sablan explained that House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI 1st District) set a deadline last December for his House committees to draft a responsible solution to Puerto Rico's debt crisis by March 31. And House natural resources committee chair Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) met the speaker's deadline by issuing a draft bill on March 30.

The government and Puerto Rico and a variety of quasi-governmental entities in that commonwealth have amassed

a debt in the excess of \$70 billion. And another \$46 million it owes to its retirees, which they are not unable to pay.

Without some intervention from the federal government, Puerto Rico will be unable to continue to paying police, teachers, and providing healthcare and many of the other essential services of government.

"A fiscal crisis would actually turn into a humanitarian crisis if nothing is done," Sablan said.

"It is a difficult situation and as a vice ranking member of Natural Resources committee I am monitoring very closely. I am also watching it closely because whenever Congress is at work on legislation that affects one of the non-state areas, such as Puerto Rico, I have to be sure to use the opportunity [to see] if the legislative proposal could benefit the Northern Marianas and to protect us if the legislation could potentially hurt our islands.

For instance, there was a proposal to extend federal bankruptcy laws to Puerto Rico and to the other non-state areas, including the Marianas, to which Sablan consulted with Torres and agreed that extending bankruptcy was not in the interests of the NMI.

The current proposed solution creates an oversight board as part of the Puerto Rico government but outside the

control of the governor or the legislature.

The oversight board has broad power including the ability to propose an adjustment of how much Puerto Rico owes to its various creditors, which will be put into effect after confirmation by a federal court.

Sablan said legislation is expected to be introduced on April 12 and he would be participating in a hearing on the bill the next day.

Sablan said he has also asked Torres to submit testimony or a letter to Bishop about his concerns.

Sablan listed some benefits that could carry over to territories as part of the Puerto Rico solution like including the CNMI into the national Medicaid program. Instead of availing of block grants, Sablan said, this could allow the NMI to enter into main Medicaid program and withdraw funds "from a larger pot of money."

Sablan also said other benefits could include earned income tax credits.

"To avoid the humanitarian crisis this is part one," Sablan said of the proposed bill. "Part two will require help to Puerto Rico and, we are asking, help to the rest of the territories."

He said if the NMI not be included, "we could be potentially be losing out on the extension of programs that we really need after 2019."

OAG

From Page 1

pending the CNMI Supreme Court's decision on the government's petition to prohibit the judge from hearing on the budget issue.

In the government's motion to stay filed on Friday, Lochabay said they have shown that Camacho lacks jurisdiction to hear the motion to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional.

He said the government has also shown that it should be granted a stay of the proceedings under either of the formulations for considering a motion to stay.

Lochabay said litigants are entitled to a stay of the proceedings if they show a combination of probable success on the merits and the possibility of irreparable injury.

He added that litigants are also entitled to a stay of the proceedings if serious questions are raised and the balance of hardship tips sharply in the appellants' favor.

On Thursday, Lochabay filed a petition, asking the CNMI Supreme Court to prohibit Camacho from proceeding with a hearing on the motion to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional.

On Friday, Camacho set a hearing of the motion to stay for April 29, 2016, to allow the opposing attorney to file opposition.

Attorney Michael Dotts has argued that the Budget Act of 2016 is unconstitutionally unbalanced under the CNMI Constitution because it did not provide for the payment of judgments in a reasonable amount.

Dotts is counsel for plaintiffs Jotonia B. Aguon, Timothy Cruz, and Gorgonny Camacho.

Aguon and Cruz are holding a \$35,000 judgment against the government in connection with their lawsuit over the death of their child at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Gorgonny Camacho is holding a \$10,000 judgment against the government in connection with his medical malpractice lawsuit against CHC.

To collect payment of the two judgments that were en-

tered in 2013, Dotts filed motions for orders in aid of judgment. He asked the Superior Court to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional. The two cases were consolidated.

In the government's motion to stay, Lochabay said there can be little doubt that the Superior Court does not have jurisdiction to hear plaintiffs' standalone motion to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional.

"This is a post-judgment proceeding in lieu of further proceedings under a motion for an order in aid of judgment," Lochabay said.

He said Camacho ordered plaintiffs to file the motion to declare because the court determined the motion for order in aid of judgment proceeding was not an appropriate vehicle to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional.

Lochabay said having made the determination that no jurisdiction was afforded by statutes providing for orders in aid of judgment, the court must have some other source of jurisdiction to hear this post-judgment motion.

"No other source of jurisdiction has been shown to exist," said Lochabay, insisting that the defendant government has probable success on the merits.

On the irreparable injury issue, Lochabay said should Camacho not issue a stay, the government would be forced to expend scarce government resources litigating matter over which the court has no jurisdiction.

"There is more than a possibility here. There is a certainty," he said.

On the serious questions issue, Lochabay said this case raises the most serious questions of Commonwealth law.

He said the CNMI Constitution grants to the Legislature the power of the purse and that only the Legislature can appropriate the funds necessary to operate the government.

"Only the Legislature can appropriate the funds necessary to pay these judgments. It is well settled that courts cannot order the Legislature to make an appropriation," said Lochabay, citing the CNMI Supreme Court's precedent ruling in Marine Revitalization Corp.'s lawsuit.

DERRON

From Page 1

Lizama noted that in their motion for removal, defendants stated that Cecilia Flores' "claims arise from traditional banking activities."

"Logically, traditional banking activities must relate to the property of a bank's clients," the lawyer pointed out.

In this case, Lizama said, defendants' tortious acts and concealment of those acts related to Cecilia Flores' property, the certificate of deposit.

The lawyer said defendants' concealment long delayed both Donald and Cecilia Flores' discovery of the defendants' fraud and recovery of the money owed.

Lizama said so long in fact,

that Donald, and then Cecilia Flores passed away.

Derron Flores seeks to pursue the claims for torts against the property his parents have left.

The defendants asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss Cecilia Flores' lawsuit against them considering that she already passed away.

MUFG Union Bank, Kato, and Concepcion, through counsels Sean E. Frink and Marcia Schultz, asked the court to deny a motion to substitute the son for Flores in the lawsuit.

Frink and Schultz said the claims of Flores in her lawsuit were extinguished when she passed away.

Frink and Schultz said Flores' complaint alleges two fraud causes of action, both of which are clearly identified by Flores

in the complaint as torts.

The lawyers said the CNMI Supreme Court has made clear that tort claims do not survive the death of an alleged tort victim.

When Flores passed away, her counsel, Lizama, filed a notice of death.

Lizama requested the court to substitute Flores' son, Derron, as substitute plaintiff in the complaint.

The Superior Court approved Derron as personal representative and only beneficiary of Flores' estate.

Flores died last Sept. 25. She was the appointed administratrix in the probate of the estate of late former Saipan mayor Donald Flores.

In 2011, Donald Flores filed a lawsuit in federal court against Union Bank of

California and First Hawaiian Bank for allegedly refusing to return the principal and interest earned on the CD. Donald Flores passed away in June 2014. Cecilia Flores then substituted him as plaintiff.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit recently ruled that the claims of Donald Flores that a bank breached the contract and violated the Commonwealth Consumer Protection Act in connection with his alleged time certificate of deposit in the amount of \$200,000 were timely filed in court and so may proceed.

The Ninth Circuit reversed the federal court's ruling that the clock on Flores' claims started to run in 1999 when he visited the bank, so his right to sue had expired by 2011 when he filed the lawsuit.

Joeten won't sell guns, despite one of few companies with gun licenses

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JC Tenorio Enterprises, one of the only companies on island with a business license to sell firearms, "will not in any good faith" engage in sale of handguns, Bo Tenorio Palacios of Joeten said last week.

Palacios was speaking during the public comment period of a House session last Thursday.

Palacios said, speaking on behalf of himself and Joeten, said he respects but wholeheartedly disagrees with the views of those who have wanted to have handguns legalized in the NMI.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI struck down the ban

on hand guns, among other provisions, from the CNMI's gun law last week.

Palacios on Thursday said that in the 30 plus years the NMI has been a member of the US political family, it has distinguished itself from the rest of the U.S., with guns laws that reflected the will of the people and "not that of politicians from Washington."

These laws "gave us an incredible sense of autonomy and helped to shield us from the often callous hand of those same politicians," Palacios said.

"In the past decade, we have seen a slow but impactful erosion of this autonomy. As a limited Republican, I want to protect our rights as

a commonwealth to determine what we deem the best way to serve and protect our people."

If the NMI cannot prohibit the sale of importation of guns, Palacios said, it must ensure that every measure is taken to protect the people so that these weapons do not fall into the hands of the community's most violent officers, ensure that the community know how to sue and safely store these weapons and keep them away from children, and strengthen background checks and permitting requirements for gun owners and gun sellers.

"And after all these regulations are put into place, we must then commit our necessary resources to enforce the

law," Palacios said.

Palacios said they en-

courage the Legislature and the governor to exercise ex-

treme prejudice in favor of public safety.

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Plane crash survivors oppose Labor chief’s request to intervene

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing lack of authority and other reasons, two plane crash survivors are opposing CNMI Department of Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero’s request to intervene in their lawsuit in federal court.

Plaintiffs Tomoyuki Nagata and Dr. Jun Takimoto, through counsel Richard W. Pierce, asserted that their lawsuit is not a bankruptcy case.

Pierce said if DeLeon Guerrero has the legal authority, she should pursue the collection action within the CNMI Department of Labor’s administrative scheme, a path it originally chose to follow.

In her motion to intervene, DeLeon Guerrero is worried that the federal court’s recent order to the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino to refrain from selling or transferring any of its property or assets, except in the normal course of business, could impede Labor’s ability to collect the remaining \$416,241.37 in judgment for liquidated damages against Tinian Dynasty for non-payment of wages to its employees.

DeLeon Guerrero has requested the court to allow Labor to intervene in the law-

suit for the limited purpose of ensuring that it can enforce Labor’s interest, and that of the unpaid Tinian Dynasty employees.

Assistant attorney general Michael Witry said Labor should be allowed to intervene for the limited purpose of modifying the court’s order to allow Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., owner of Tinian Dynasty, to pay liquidated damages to its employees.

Witry said Labor’s judgment required HKE to make payments to Tinian Dynasty’s employees \$1,321,637.09 in back wages and \$416,241.37 in liquidated damages, or for a total of \$1,737,878.46.

Witry said HKE made timely payment of the first \$619,734.18 in back wages, which was due on Feb. 23, 2016.

Witry said HKE paid the remaining \$701,902.91 in back wages on March 15, 2016, but did not pay the liquidated damages.

Witry said the court’s order, which prevents HKE from making payments other than those in the ordinary course of business, stands in the way of Labor’s duty to ensure that the workers are paid for their work.

In plaintiffs’ opposition,

Pierce said CNMI law does not provide Labor with the authority to file in a federal court a collection claim arising from an agreement between a private party and the Labor secretary, or for that matter arising from an order of an administrative law judge in a CNMI proceeding.

Pierce said the Labor secretary would turn this civil action for personal injury into a bankruptcy proceeding.

Pierce said there is no question that HKE has substantial creditors and assets less than its liabilities.

Presumably, he said, the Labor secretary will request this court to allow her to jump in line for collection ahead of plaintiffs Nagata and Takimoto.

“If not, the secretary is wasting our time,” Pierce said.

In her declaration in support of Labor’s motion to intervene, DeLeon Guerrero said Labor’s judgment on Feb. 23, 2016, arose because HKE failed to pay its employees for several months, but forced them to continue working.

Takimoto and Mr. Nagata moved the court to enforce terms of their settlement agreement and the court’s order.

The survivors claimed that HKE owes them at least \$1.3

million for breaching their settlement agreements.

Takimoto and Nagata moved the court to issue an order prohibiting HKE from the sale or transfer of its personal property, except in the normal course of business, such as in sale of food items to customers.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the survivors’ request last March 10. Takimoto and Nagata were among the seven passengers of a Piper Cherokee aircraft that crashed on a farm in Up- per Dandan en route to Tinian on Aug. 11, 2006. HKE settled the lawsuits filed by the survivors, including one filed by Takimoto and his family and Nagata.

literacy, quality early care and education and to celebrate the teachers, caregivers, service providers, and policymakers that bring early childhood education to young children.”

Themes and corresponding programs will be conducted each week of the month.

According to Heather Santos of ECCS, Week 1 will focus on health and safety activities with various centers promoting child passenger safety, oral healthcare awareness, and physical activities.

Week 2 will focus on literacy, which coincides with the National Library Week and the Week of the Young Child.

Week 3 will be Child Care Service Providers’ Week, which will include a childcare symposium, while the fourth week will focus on early learning and family engagement activities for parents with young children. *(Frauline Villanueva-Dizon)*


the very first Week of the Young Child proclaimed in April 2007.

This year’s proclamation was read by student Isabella Marie Mallari, Jocelyn Kapileo, who is a parent from the Home Visiting Program; Kaylana Mettao, who is a parent from the Early Head Start/ Head Start Program; and Lucretia Limes, who is a parent from the Child Care Center.


The proclamation recognized that “Early Childhood Month is an opportunity for early childhood programs across the country, including child care, Early Head Start, Head Start programs, Home Visiting Program, pre-schools and elementary schools, to hold activities to bring awareness to the needs of young children.”

It added that it is “a time to recognize the importance of health and safety of young children, early learning, early

April is Early Childhood Month



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-006

SR-1 LIFT STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT
(S-11-015)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of SR-1 Sewer Lift Station in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the rehabilitation and upgrade of SR-1 Sewer Lift Station.

The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of the wet well, remove existing pumps and appurtenances and install new pumps, guide rails, control panel, valves, replacement of pipes and fittings, temporary wastewater bypass system, installation of new fence and gate, and other related work.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 14, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-16-006, SR-1 Lift Station Rehabilitation Project”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 03, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 18, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-019

Opening Date: Thursday, March 31, 2016
Closing Date: Friday, April 29, 2016

Internal Auditor
(Re-Announcement)

DUTIES: Under the direct supervision of the CUC Board of Directors. May supervise staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Coordinates and conducts comprehensive internal financial, operational and/or information systems audits to determine compliance with, and effectiveness of established controls and regulations; implements audit programs to address and improve operational efficiency and to minimize risk exposure. Researches business control needs and identifies audit scope and objectives; prepares audit work plans; identifies key stakeholders; and determines scheduling and audit processes. Performs and/or coordinates assessments and internal audit activities related to controls, compliance, and operational efficiency; analyzes risk; collects, researches and analyzes financial and operational data, records and information; and identifies issues and deficiencies. Communicates and documents audit findings, risk exposures, and internal control issues; prepares and presents reports and recommendations for corrective actions, internal control improvements, and methods to improve operational efficiency. Reviews and evaluates internal audit processes and procedures; provides recommendations for efficiency and quality improvements and/or automated processes. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION
SALARY
POSITIONS
CONTRACT

: **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
: \$48,821.00 to \$65,908.00 per annum.
(Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
: One (1).
: Two (2) Year Contract.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: **Education:** Bachelor’s Degree in business, finance or related field and 5-7 years of related experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation. **Licensing/Certification Requirements:** Valid U.S. Driver’s License with appropriate class; Certified Internal Auditor or Certified Information Systems Auditor. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); US Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; US Generally Accepted Auditing Standards; Financial, management and operational analysis principles; Internal audit methods, controls and standards relevant to area of assignment; Mathematical principles; Research methods; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. **Skill In:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Conducting comprehensive internal audits; Assessing internal controls and risk; Reviewing operational effectiveness and compliance; Identifying audit scope and objectives; Planning and implementing schedules and audit process flow; Researching and analyzing data and information; Documenting and presenting audit findings and recommendations; Providing customer service and advising management on compliance practices; Reviewing processes and providing recommendations to improve efficiencies and quality; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to a pre-employment drug screening.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. 670-644-4282 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

ON CONVICTION, SENTENCE VS EX-KARAOKE OPERATOR FOR SEX TRAFFICKING

9th Circuit affirms conviction, sentence of 19 years, 7 months

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the conviction and a prison sentence of 19 years and seven months slapped against Chang Ru Meng Backman, a former karaoke operator convicted of sex trafficking.

The Ninth Circuit panel held that because the statute does not require commission of a sex act, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona correctly did not give an instruction requiring the jury to find that the alleged coercion was the “but-for cause” of the victim’s commercial sex acts.

“But-for cause” is also

known as legal cause.

According to the Ninth Circuit’s opinion penned by Judge Susan Graber, sufficient evidence supported the jury’s finding of an effect on interstate commerce.

The Ninth Circuit judges held that Manglona did not abuse her discretion in denying Backman’s motion to admit, under Federal Rules of Evidence, evidence that the victims engaged in prostitution after the indictment period, where the motion did not specify the evidence sought to be admitted.

The Ninth Circuit ruled that Manglona did not abuse her discretion in denying Backman an 11th-hour opportunity to amend her mo-

tion pertaining to admissibility of evidence.

The Ninth Circuit held that exclusion of the proffered evidence was within constitutional bounds because the exclusion was neither arbitrary nor disproportionate to the purposes of the notice requirement, in that the district court could not conduct the in camera review and hearing mandated by Rule 412 without knowledge of the identity of the victims and the nature of the evidence.

The Ninth Circuit panel held that Manglona correctly applied a vulnerable victim sentencing enhancement under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines.

Attorney David G. Banes is

counsel for Backman, a Chinese woman. Assistant U.S. attorneys Garth R. Backe and Ross K. Naughton appeared for the U.S. government.

Backman appealed, asking the Ninth Circuit to reverse her conviction and sentence on one count of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion.

On June 7, 2013, the jurors found Backman guilty of one count of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion, but acquitted her of two counts of same charges involving two other women.

The jury convicted Backman of forcing into prostitution a Chinese woman, who had been tricked into flying to

Saipan on promises of a work visa and a legal job, when in fact the victim received only a tourist visa, was effectively imprisoned, and was told repeatedly that she had nowhere to turn and must engage in prostitution.

In February 2014, Manglona sentenced Backman.

On appeal, defendant argues that, under two recent Supreme Court decisions, the jury instructions were improper; that there was insufficient evidence to support the conviction; that the district court erred in denying her motion under Federal Rule of Evidence 412 to admit evidence of the victim’s sexual conduct

after the indictment period.

She also argues that the district court erred by applying a sentencing enhancement for a “vulnerable victim” under the Sentencing Guidelines.

In his sentencing memorandum, attorney Joaquin Torres, the original counsel for Backman, said during the trial, there was no evidence that Backman knew that a customer would force, threat of force, fraud, or coerce the victim to engage in commercial sex.

Torres said there was no evidence that Backman was in reckless disregard that force, threat of force, fraud, or coercion would be used against the victim by the customer.

Kagman Health Fair on April 9

The Kagman Community Health Center will be hosting a Health Fair on Saturday, April 9, at the Kagman CHC grounds in Kagman II. The event, set from 9am to 12pm, is in connection with the third year anniversary of Kagman CHC.

The event is also open for persons of all ages and organizers are inviting all villages to come and avail of the free services that they will be offering.

Blood pressure screening, blood sugar testing, body mass index measurement, breast exam, family planning information, fluoride varnish application, HIV/STD screening, immunization, Pap Smear, and purified protein deriva-

tive test—to know if you suffer from tuberculosis—are the services they would offer.

Refreshments will be served with special prizes and other giveaways will be handed over. Free T-shirts will also be given to the first 100 participants who would register.

The Division of Public Health of the Commonwealth Health Center Corp., Hardt Eye Clinic, the Marianas Eye Institute, and the Saipan Southern High School Nursing Program are Kagman CHC’s partners for the event.

For more information or any questions, email Frances Santos at frances.santos@kagmanchc.org or call her at 256-5240. *(Jon Perez)*

Attention Gov’t. Retirees!

➔ **New Dental Plan Available via Allotment**

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➔ **Low Cost: \$5.00, \$6.00 or \$7.00 per allotment**

➔ **Denture/Partial Grand Opening Promotion: \$550 per Denture/ \$725 per partial.**



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Legal Notice

If You Purchased Municipal Derivative Transactions from January 1, 1992, to August 18, 2011

You Could Get a Payment for a Class Action Settlement.

Proposed Settlements have been reached in a class action lawsuit that alleges price-fixing in the sale of municipal derivatives transactions by UBS AG, Société Générale S.A., Natixis Funding Corp., Piper Jaffray & Co., National Westminster Bank Plc, George K. Baum & Co. (the “Settling Defendants”) and other companies. The case, *In re Municipal Derivatives Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1950, No. 08-02516, is pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Defendants deny all allegations of wrongdoing and liability.

Who Is Included in the Settlements?

These Settlements include all state, local and municipal government entities, independent government agencies, quasi-government, and private entities that purchased municipal derivative transactions through negotiation, competitive bidding or auction:

- (1) From any Alleged Provider Defendant or Alleged Co-Conspirator or brokered by any Alleged Broker Defendant or Alleged Co-Conspirator,
- (2) Any time from January 1, 1992, through August 18, 2011, in the United States and its territories or for delivery in the United States and its territories.

These Alleged Provider and Broker Defendants and Alleged Co-Conspirators are listed in full on the Settlement website (at www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com).

What Do the Settlements Provide?

The Defendants agreed to settlement amounts totaling over \$100 million. Certain Defendants will also provide reasonable cooperation, including discovery cooperation, to Class Plaintiffs’ Counsel to the extent necessary if any of the Settlements are not finally approved.

What Do I Do Now?

- **Remain in the Settlements.** To remain in the Settlement Class, you do not have to do anything now. To be considered for payment, your Claim must be submitted online (at www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com), **OR** mail it by **July 28, 2016**. If you previously submitted a Claim Form, and you do not have any changes to make to it, you do not need to do anything – your previous Claim Form will be used for these settlements. If the Court approves the Settlements, you give up the right to sue the Settling Defendants for the claims and issues in this case. The Settlement Agreements, which are available at www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com, describe in more detail the legal claims that you give up if you stay in the Class.

- **Exclude yourself from the Settlements.** If you do not want to remain in any of the Settlement Classes, you must exclude yourself. You must send a written request for exclusion by first-class mail, **postmarked no later than May 17, 2016**, to the Settlement Administrator. The detailed notice available on the Settlement website describes the information you are required to include in your request for exclusion. You can exclude yourself from some but not all Settlements. If you exclude yourself, you cannot participate in the Settlements from which you exclude yourself, but you retain your right to sue the Settling Defendants involved in the Settlements from which you exclude yourself on your own for the claims in this lawsuit.
- **Object or Comment on the Settlements.** If you remain in the Settlement Class and want to object to or comment on the Settlements or any part of them, you must file an objection with the Court and deliver a copy to the Settlement Administrator **no later than June 20, 2016**.

When Will the Court Decide Whether to Approve the Settlements?

The Court has scheduled a hearing on **July 8, 2016, at 2:00 p.m.** at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007, to consider whether to finally approve the Settlements as fair, reasonable and adequate, whether to approve the plan of allocation and Class Counsel’s request for fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses, and to consider any objections.

The Court has appointed the law firms of Hausfeld LLP; Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP; and Susman Godfrey L.L.P. to serve as Class Counsel and represent all Class Members. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense. You or your lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing but are not required to. If you want to be heard by the Court, you must file a written notice of your intention to appear with the Court and deliver a copy to the Settlement Administrator and Defendants’ Counsel **no later than June 20, 2016**. The Court may change the time and date of the hearing. Any change will be posted on the Settlement website.

Get More Information

For more information on this lawsuit, your rights, or to obtain a list of Defendants, call or visit the Settlement website listed below or write to Municipal Derivatives Settlement, c/o Rust Consulting, Inc., P.O. Box 2500, Faribault, MN 55021-9500.

For more information: 1-877-310-0512 www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com

CDA to further improve programs as economy grows

By **FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON**
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority capped its

30th anniversary celebration with a luncheon gathering at the Saipan World Resort last Thursday.

The luncheon was attended by present and past CDA

board of directors, managers, and officers, as well as members of the Legislature and some of CDA's clients.

According to CDA managing director Manny Sablan, they were successful in reaching out to the community during their month-long celebration.

"We tried to reach out to the community, Saipan, Rota and Tinian, and it went very well. Basically we just tell them what we've done over the last 30 years and what are the programs going forward," Sablan said, adding that they will make the organization more effective and efficient.

Just some of CDA's upcoming projects will include training and extending underwriting abilities to Rota and Tinian.

"We're reorganizing the offices on Rota and Tinian," Sablan said.

Through their stakeholders meetings in the three islands, CDA was also able to get feedback about their programs and that "the prognosis is good."

"We're taking those advice seriously, we will try to do whatever we can to further improve so that we can effectively deploy more loans," Sablan said.

Growing economy

According to Sablan, they are seeing an increase of loans in their State Small Business Credit Initiative both in terms of borrowers and amount.

For SSBCI, which is a loan from the banks and where CDA provides support, they have already loaned \$4 million.

"We have been able to fully deploy the first tranche of the \$13 million," Sablan said.

"We see this thing generating every week, new loan re-

quests coming in, that is beautiful," he added.

Another CDA program that has been very active and has been generating borrowers is their microloan program where borrowers can loan up to \$25,000.

"We have set aside \$750,000 for the microloans," Sablan said.

In general, Sablan notes that the CNMI's economy has been improving.

"The whole economy also seems to be improving as you can see in the construction that's going on, the traffic," Sablan said.

"We're also trying to find ways to help the government in terms of getting some of the infrastructure financed," he added.

During the luncheon, Bank of Guam senior vice president and chief economist Joseph Bradley

gave a talk on "Economic Conditions and Prospects" where part of his discussion was the economy of the three major countries that are key players in CNMI's economy.

CDA also awarded the winner of its Business Plan Competition that was held in partnership with the Northern Marianas College.

College student Alexandra Villagomez took home \$1,000 scholarship after her business project "Kinsi Minutos Oil Change" was chosen as the winner.

CDA said they hope to continue this competition every year.

CDA was established on May 31, 1985 through Public Law 4-49 signed by then governor Pedro P. Tenorio. It was supposed to celebrate its anniversary late last year, but it was pushed until March.

LibDay committee to accommodate Thursday Night Market vendors

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Liberation Day committee assured Thursday Night Market vendors that they would be provided space once the carnival opens on June 10. The Liberation Day committee has been regularly meeting to make sure the 71st anniversary of Saipan's Liberation would go according to plan.

Logistics chair Mac Chargualaf explained to the committee the layout of the carnival grounds during their last meeting held at the conference room of the Saipan Mayor's Office. Chargualaf, who is also the SMO safety officer, said there's enough space at the Garapan Fishing Base.

A stage, 36 tents for the Liberation Day carnival vendors, tables and bleachers for the audience, and the area for the beer garden are some of the things on the layout presented by Chargualaf to the committee.

"Plus most of those vendors in the Thursday Night Market will also be selling at the Liberation Day carnival. We could put them near the games section of the parade grounds," said Chargualaf.

They would also provide a route for the limousine that

would be used by the Liberation Day Royal Court candidates since they are also part of the program.

He added that there's also enough space for the emergency routes where EMT personnel could immediately respond to any emergency. The medical first aid tent and the ambulance will be near Beach Road.

"[Department of Public Safety] and [Emergency Management Services] personnel will be near Beach Road at the ground entrance. The power lines will be higher than last year for the ambulance to get in and out," said Chargualaf.

Liberation Day non-profit group president Louis Rodgers asked about the power and other electricity connections. "We have to know the electrical requirements."

"I will also have to secure a permit from [the Division of Environmental Quality] in order for us to put four additional power poles for electricity needs for the games tents," said Chargualaf.

He added that he has also collected 200 wooden pallets from businesses and will continue asking companies once they are done unloading their goods and other items.



WELCOME TO THE ISLANDS

Saipan was host to the first tri-annual meeting for 2016 of the Pacific Asia Travel Association Micronesia Chapter from March 30 to April 1. On Friday, Best Sunshine International, Ltd. with the endorsement of Marianas Visitors Authority, welcomed the region's travel and tourism leaders with a conference and tour of the investment giant's current and future developments. Among the PATA delegates in this photo are, seated from left to right, Guam Senator Tina Muna Barnes, chairwoman of Committee on Municipal Affairs, Tourism, Housing and Historic Recreation; Best Sunshine International majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie; and Guam Visitors Bureau director of Global Marketing and chair of PATA Micronesia Chapter Pilar Laguana. Also in photo is PATA treasurer and MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, standing, second left.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY • CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-CCC-088 (1-30)

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 20, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF NUMEROUS ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENTS, COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, CAMERAS, FINGERPRINTING EQUIPMENT AND OTHER RELATED EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **EDWARD C. DELEON GUERRERO**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP: RFP16-GOV-091

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 26, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"DEVELOPMENT PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, A PROJECT UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, SECOND FLOOR, JUAN A. BUILDING, IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MATTHEW DELEON GUERRERO AT matt.deleonguerrero@gov.mp NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 15, 2016.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **RALPH DLG. TORRES**
GOVERNOR

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, April 7, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 1. February 27, 2016 Regular Board Meeting
 2. March 21, 22, and 28, 2016 Meetings
 - E. Correspondence
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Management Reports
 - A. Executive Director
 1. Update on SO1 and SO2 Projects
 2. Update on EPA Grant Projects
 - B. Chief Financial Officer
 - C. Legal Counsel
 1. Presentation of Government Ethics Act - Office of the Public Auditor
- IV. Executive Session***
- V. Board Reports/Miscellaneous Administrative Matters/New Business
 1. Personnel Committee
 2. Operations Committee
- VI. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda may be modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Legislative Bureau
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-16-002
Position: Director, Legislative Bureau
Pay Level – UNGRADED: \$

Opening Date: April 01, 2016
Closing Date: April 07, 2016

Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

APPOINTMENT:
Pursuant to Article 11, Section 17 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Director is appointed by the joint leadership of the legislature consisting of the presiding officers, vice presiding officers, floor leaders, and the chairpersons of the standing committees. The director may be removed by a majority of the members of each house of the legislature with or without cause.

PRIMARY DUTIES:
The director shall employ all necessary staff, other than personal staff of the members of the legislature. The director shall be responsible for all required services to the legislature in connection with the sessions and committee meetings, ensure maintenance of all records, files, library and other documents of the legislature, and shall be responsible for the organization and management of the Legislative Bureau.

QUALIFICATIONS and SALARY RANGE:
Qualifications and compensation of the director is determined by the joint appointing authorities.

APPLICATION:
Interested applicants are requested to submit a letter of interest, resume and employment application to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Office of the President of the Senate located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas

/s/ **Rafael S. Demapan**, Speaker
House of Representative

/s/ **Francisco M. Borja**, President
Senate

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

PATA-Micronesia chapter is inviting tourism stakeholders in the CNMI to participate in the 2016 PATA International Summit that will be held for the first time in Guam in May. In the photo, from left to right, are chapter vice chair and FSM Tourism Unit Division of Resources Management and Development program manager Bermance Aldis, chapter treasurer and MVA acting managing director Judy Torres, Guam's Sen. Tina Muña-Barnes, and chapter chair Pilar Laguaña.

CNMI tourism stakeholders invited to PATA summit in Guam

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

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REPORTER

The Pacific Asia Travel Association- Micronesia Chapter is inviting stakeholders in the CNMI to take part in the PATA-International annual summit which will be held in Guam for the very first time in May.

Guam is among the founding members of PATA, which is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year.

"This is an opportunity that we, the entire region of Micronesia, have a chance to be in the limelight, in front of very significant stakeholders that move travel and tourism to, within, and from the Pacific Asia area. It's an exciting time for us in the industry," PATA-Micronesia Chapter chair Pilar Laguaña told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We never had this type of platform before given to us, but we are such an active chapter that I think they noticed us," she added.

As a member of the PATA-Micronesia Chapter, the Marianas Visitors Authority will be among the attendees from the CNMI.

"MVA is joining, our new managing director will be on board that time and he will also be attending as a PATA board member. At the same time, MVA will also be there to showcase our destination through a hospital desk to the delegation that will be attending," chapter treasurer and MVA acting managing director Judy Torres said.

Torres said interested parties in the CNMI need not to be PATA members to attend, however, their membership enrolment is always open.

"It's a good conference to attend. We have the key players, key stakeholders that will be there and they will bring a wealth of information in terms of tourism industry," Torres said.

The summit will be held from May 18 to 22 at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort, with the one-day conference happening on May 19.

"Our theme for this summit, we wanted it to relate to Pacific Islanders, its called, 'Exploring the Secrets of the Blue Continent.' Blue continent because there's ocean between all of us and yet we are one. We are really united as one," Laguaña said.

"We have wonderful speak-

ers that will talk about issues related to future forecast trends of travel and tourism in the Asia-Pacific area and we will have speakers that will talk about sustainable tourism which is always a big issue to us," she added.

Other topics include 'Shaping the Intangibles through Hyper Connections'; 'Driving Solo or Following the Pack'; 'Mastering the Skill of Future Trend Forecast'; 'Techie HCD Solutions for Higher Profitability'; 'Creating One of the Best Workspaces', and 'Less Space, More Popularity-Finding the Balance'.

Confirmed speakers include Andrew Dixon, owner of Nikoi and Cempedak Islands; Daniel Levine, director, The Avant-Guide Institute; Eric Ricaurte, founder and CEO of Greenview; Mark Schwab, CEO of Star Alliance; Sarah Mathews, head of Destination Marketing APAC at TripAdvisor, and Zoltán Somogyi, executive director for Programme and Coordination at the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

On May 21, PATA and the United Nations World Tourism Organization will join forces and host a half day ministerial debate.

"This is the first time in history that we have PATA and the UN together in the Pacific and it's going to happen in our region," Laguaña said, "It will be a very exciting event because we have BBC World, they are a huge sponsor of PATA."

Events for the youth will also be held on the first day of the summit at the University of Guam together with the Guam Community College and the Guam Visitors Bureau is assisting them," Laguaña said.

"We will have PATA tourism experts go to the youth symposium and speak to the students about issues that concern the students and what's on their mind for future tourism development for the islands," she added.

Pre- and post-tours for the Micronesian islands for the delegates are also being arranged.

"We are inviting anyone interested in travel and tourism, find some time to go to pata.org...and you'll see the information about the summit on Guam and they can register as a delegate. There are fees to it but it is an incredible opportunity," Laguaña said.



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Smartphone gun is just dumb

I imagine this conversation at the restaurant table next to you:

"Honey, when we're out to dinner, is it really necessary to play with your smartphone?"

"I'm not. I'm checking to make sure my gun is loaded and the safety is on."

Fanciful? Not entirely. A Minnesota firm is developing the "Ideal Conceal," a .380-caliber, double-barrel, two-round handgun designed to look like a smartphone. When the owner feels the need, he or she can simply click the handle into place and voila! A gun!

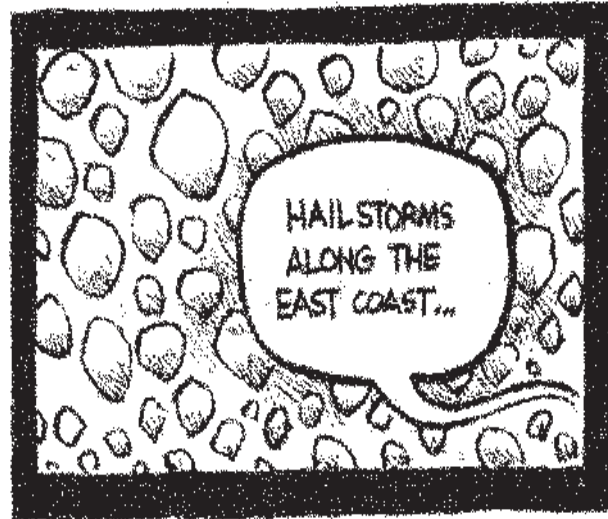
The designer of the weapon, Kirk Kjellberg, told NBC News that he came up with the idea after a child in a restaurant pointed him out, loudly, as carrying a handgun. "And then pretty much the whole restaurant stared at me," Kjellberg said. His solution: A handgun that folds up into a smartphone-shaped rectangle and tucks into a pocket. It is slated to go on the market later this year for \$395.

Clever, we guess, but frighteningly short-sighted. Police already have trouble with violent criminals carrying guns, and with innocent people brandishing real-looking toy guns. If police now have to sort out whether someone who whips out a cellphone is taking a picture or is on the verge of squeezing off a couple of rounds—well, that's when a smartphone gun stops being quite so smart.

The United States has a long history of disguising guns as common objects. Walking sticks, pens, flashlights and portable radios have all been converted into firearms over the years. Since the smartphone gun isn't in production yet, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives hasn't determined whether it would be subject to federal firearm restrictions. The manufacturer does say, though, that X-ray machines will be able to tell it's a gun.

Small consolation. Designing a gun to look like a smartphone so that the owner can carry it in public without arousing curiosity is dangerously silly. And unfortunately, our gun laws don't mandate common sense.

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OUCH

I had a speaking engagement in West Tokyo in the first decade of the millennium and had five days before gabbing my way into people's imagination. I had been south before so it was time to get up north. I took the train to Sapporo in the island of Hokkaido by train, which was great because I probably just paid for a couple of nights at a hotel and the rest of it was on the train.

I already took the Shinkansen (bullet train) to Osaka before and Shinkansen on this northern route only went up to Hachinohe before going on the regular line under the channel to Hokkaido. Thus, I took the milk train and gaze my time away watching the countryside on both sides of Honshu and Hokkaido.

The big surprise was Sapporo. I had always imagined the Japanese to be neat and orderly by demo of my neighbors in Honolulu, but the cement posts holding elevated highways and restraining embankments were full of graffiti of the juvenile kind. The trip was enjoyable on the tail end of winter going into spring, which led my tropical bloodline to find an excuse to wear winter clothing.

Of course, Sapporo will have to be revisited some other time and get a fuller treatment. For now, my recollection is triggered by the new loud yellow paint that workers did on the small bridges connecting pathway to dwellings and buildings from the street of Tun Joaquin Doi Rd. of Finasisu down from Apa Rd. towards the old Ladera International School campus. Equipped with standard reflecting red glares at night, the bright yellow cross bridges glowed enough that any sober driver would find the road course pleasant to drive in.

A boldly embellished OUSH graffiti sign, with variants that included an NSH, were prominent on the cross bridge walkways a few days later. Now, graffiti artists' adrenalin rush is sustained by the length of time their handiwork stays visible until the DPW guys get around to repainting them.

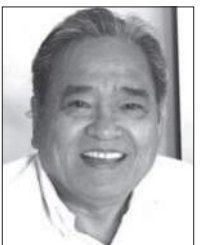
While I was a 6th grade teacher at San Vicente Elementary School, graffiti vandalism was done on the wall of the first floor of the building my class occupied. The painters were clear that their work (not of quality to be greatly admired) were a sign of protest since they managed to etch the f-word along the text, so I went to maintenance and asked for a gallon of the wall paint they used on the building and painted over the graffiti, prepared to do the same again should the artist come back with another of their handiwork the day after.

I was made to understand that maintenance kept an eye on

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



the space, and the grapevine revealed that the perpetrators were former students who had since gone up to higher grades, so it was still sad to note that graduates were defacing their old school. But when asked why I did not wait for maintenance to get around doing the job, I remember telling someone that I felt personally defeated for as long as the graffiti was visible.

The same was my response to the Tun Joaquin Doi Rd. vandalism but I did not know where to get the yellow paint. Besides, I was just starting to set up a Grade 1 room that I consented to teach at WSR since the teacher had to leave and the replacement was full of energy but too young and inexperienced that she was easily overwhelmed by the task.

It was in such quandary, my knowing that a deed needed to be done and I was ready to roll up my sleeves that I was lost on the logistics until I noticed blue shirts painting over the damage. I do not know whether they were regular DPWs but they were sporting the blue shirt of BSI who has been trying very hard to gain public support of their casino venture through their community involvement work, and they could either be DPW workers sporting BSI shirts, or BSI itself through its own workers.

In any case, OUSH is gone, and I trust, so will the other graffiti in CUC relay stations and my favorite place by the tank of Quartermaster road where the waterless toilet (not used) is a frequent target of graffiti artists.

It occurred to me that at a time when young people from 12 to 40 walk around with a smartphone like an attire accessory equipped with a camera that I thought a snap shot of a graffiti artist in the midst of his/her work is something the dailies will

See OUSH on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Where's our honey and milk?

To understand the pulse of the community on issues, there's no greater place than to visit the simple folks in their villages and engage them in casual conversations.

You'd hear truthful expressions straight from the heart, e.g., what keeps them going or what has derailed them from normal family life.

It's a treat listening to Tan Maria and Tun Jose. Their time-honored words of wisdom were refreshingly humbling. I notice that each is gripped with fear, needs, dreams, and suspicious of the term "promise" coming from forked tongued politicians.

The elderly speak admonishing of the gradual loss of indigenous religious culture. While our community remains predominantly Catholic perhaps our observation of religious obligation has shifted more to the permissive side. Theirs was powerfully strict or call it conservative.

The younger crowd especially the recently settled with new families in our community are upset at the lack of real opportunities to forge ahead. The absence of training or continuing education has forced them into a corner yawning for that scarce opportunity at skills acquisition. Have we been negligent on this score? After a while, I could hear harps of filthy politics infested with corruption translating into hardship in households everywhere.

Topping the list is stagnant wages—no increase in salaries for over 20 years—while families struggle with inflation or cost of basic goods increasing yearly. Having lived in poverty instantly rings a bell what families must be going through living paycheck to paycheck or advancing two paychecks via charges at a village grocery store nearby. The hardship is vicious and the gathering isn't fitting for a politician. The scrutiny is merciless!

The best we've heard from imperial Capital Hill was a speech about poverty in the islands. Well, excuse me sir! Your lack of leadership has further sunk most families into the hellish hole of abject poverty. More vacuous speeches aren't going to change such condition found all over the archipelago.

Though we have a lot of Medicaid recipients there's the de-

ductible families must pay anywhere \$1,000-\$2,000 per year depending upon family size. It's a healthcare cost most people can't afford to fork out at the counter. What about those immediately above the threshold of federal poverty income level? Disposable income is zip!

Some noted that they too have tasted milk and honey and look forward to receiving a salary increase of \$2,500 per month—the same freebie senators have given themselves recently. It pans out to \$30,000 per year "we could use to ease difficult family economics today".

It's a good query to level against the nimble mind of Senate President Francisco Borja and cabal. Did the evil geniuses forget we could read and understand our materials too? Did they forget that the villagers are immune to inflation—cost of living—skyrocketing? Anyway, Borja is up for re-election. Let's see if he could improve upon this by granting all employees the same increase he and cabal are now pocketing. It's \$2,500 per month, sir!

The issue goes beyond the politics of purchasing guard dogs and slaves on imperial Capital Hill. Those prepping for re-election could boldly recycle failed promises only to find critical public anger for sliding into corrupt politics. Well, seeking re-election or validation is boldly wrong too!

Demise of Chamorro Lingo

Though I have written in the vernacular for years, there's that fearful intuition of the eventual demise of the Chamorro language. A recent study asserts that when the written language isn't taught for a generation it eventually dies. Most folks the world over prefer learning English to polish up in a lingo or what's known as the global business language. The NMI is no exception!

At least I've learned to write it with proper syntax and context so it retains simplicity and clarity for readers. The use of journalistic discipline keeps it simple so I never have to engage the KISS concept. A journalistic experience makes this a natural part of the process.

Also struggled with spelling—phonetics vs. orthographic—fi-

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

nally deciding to stick to what I was taught in primary school embracing Spanish, the foundation of the written Chamorro. It was simpler and didn't require one too many trips to the mound of doing it right by writing it right!

Most importantly, your piece should be simple and easy to understand. That Chamorro is a very poor language in terms of descriptive verbs and concepts makes it even more vital that you explain them as simply as you can. If the reader can't understand it then you, the writer, have failed!

The eventual death of our native tongue would happen in less than two decades. This is cushioned or given credence by some 90 percent of Chamorro households now speaking English from dawn to dusk, daily. Brace for it. Internment is inevitable!

Advancing Mullah! Though this government is under water financially, admirable the braggadocio cabal displaying business as usual on imperial Capital Hill. I have a suspicion Ralph and Victory might be successful advancing some \$20 million from BSI. Isn't an advance a tale of heavy fiscal stress in the coffers of the local government?

If there exist leadership then it would have dawned on people at the helm to revisit investments to see if reliance on exogenous investments that have taken an exodus the very culprit of the deepening condition today. Is there a way out of this mess so it isn't given a repeat of history?

Indeed, we constantly return to traditional farming and fishing when we fall flat on our face, seriously injured. While resiliency is never in short supply, ideas to move the goal post are lagging way behind. That we keep returning is a tale that it has and continues to work. Isn't this sufficient a reason to revisit it with a sense of confidence and purpose?

Cruz being given enough rope simply to hang Trump

By **RICHARD PARKER**
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Richard Parker is a columnist for the Dallas Morning News. Readers may email him at info@richardparkertx.com

OK, all you Ted Cruz fans out there: It's time to tap the brakes on your magical thinking.

Of course, it's still too early to pick winners and losers in this unpredictable presidential race, but let's face facts: Cruz isn't really campaigning for the White House. The Republican establishment isn't embracing Cruz; it's tolerating him to stop Donald Trump. Cruz's right-wing politics would never attract swing voters. In modern politics, no candidate has been this far behind at this point in the primary season and still won the nomination. Cruz is just doing what he does best: Making a dramatic statement — and still going down in defeat.

Yes, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has endorsed Cruz in next week's primary in his state. But before that, Walker had said he "rules out Ted Cruz" because of a lack of executive experience. All anybody could get out of Jeb Bush on Cruz was a terse, written statement. And South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham hasn't endorsed Cruz at all, saying only that he's "on the train." Asked on "The Daily Show" about walking such a fine line for a politician he has openly disdained, Graham laughed, "Hey, I'm getting better at this."

Mainstream Republicans rallying around Cruz are like people who believe in unicorns: Everybody has heard of one, and nobody's ever actually seen one. The Republican Party is, in all reality, giving Cruz just enough rope to hang Trump. That's it. Trump would probably not only lose the fall election — possibly in a landslide, according to recent polling — but cost Republicans control of one, or even both, chambers of Congress. Already, Republican House members are trying to put as much distance as possible between themselves and Trump, who has never heard of Congress, nuclear weapons, foreign policy or the Constitution. That guy isn't running to be president but king.

Of course, it's not as if the junior senator from Texas is exactly replete with accomplishment.

Cruz has missed 160 votes in the Senate; that's roughly one in every six votes since the people of Texas dispatched him to Washington and U.S. taxpayers started picking up his tab. That's 10 times more, or "much worse," than the average serving U.S. senator, according to the tracking service GovTrack. Missing votes is about the only thing Cruz has been good at. The only bill he ever sponsored that became law was one barring one Iranian official — the foreign minister — from entering the country. One. Lyndon Johnson, John Tower, Lloyd Bentsen or Kay Bailey Hutchinson he's not.

Nor even John Cornyn, come to think of it.

You might, or might not, like Cornyn's brand of conservatism; he is actually more conservative than Cruz, if you can believe

that. The difference is that Cornyn actually gets mundane things done, such as making sure providers who have been barred from Medicaid actually stay that way. Sexy, it's not. But, hey, at least Cornyn shows up to work.

So, here's a cold, hard dose of reality. To repeat, since the primary system arose in the late 1960s, the number of candidates to be this far behind the front-runner at this point and prevail is zero. Zilch.

Even if elves were real and Cruz won the nomination, he is too far to the right to attract a sufficient number of swing voters. His platform is entirely composed of pandering platitudes: He's for the Constitution, the Second Amendment, Israel and a strong national defense. (Who's not?) He's for building a wall along the Mexican border. (Trump cornered that fantasy.) He's for families and marriage. (Just not women's reproductive rights or marriage for gay people.) He's for a strong national defense (Who's not?) and religious liberty. (The irony of patrolling Muslim neighborhoods seems lost on him.)

Charitably, Cruz is a faker.

He keeps saying "carpet bomb" ISIS, then insists he didn't mean it. He says he started listening to country music, but only after 9/11. What kind of Texan is he? The kind that is a Harvard-trained lawyer from Canada or, worse, that is all hat and no cattle. Cruz is really good at one thing: Grandstanding.

So, Ted, on with the magic show. We're all watching. But some of us aren't holding our breath.

HOUSE

From Page 10

just be glad to print in their news pages. I think I am still on the "we can't let the graffiti warriors win" mode.

I learned after my visit 2002 to Sapporo that the city decided to clean up after its ardent artists. I did not witness the result and it can also just be hearsay but the fact remains that graffiti is everyone's concern. There is no "they" mandated to clear after the artists, and, yes, we have authorities with the responsibility not only to go after perpetrators but to clean up


the deed so the environs do not become a field for sore eyes; the responsibility is all ours.

OUSH was a personal "Ouch!" I thank the blue shirts for doing us all a favor, and for the perpetrators, they are just a click away! Not a dare, just a statement."Smile, you're on candid camera!"

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Mostly sunny with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲89° ▼76°


TUESDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼75°


WEDNESDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼75°


THURSDAY



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.

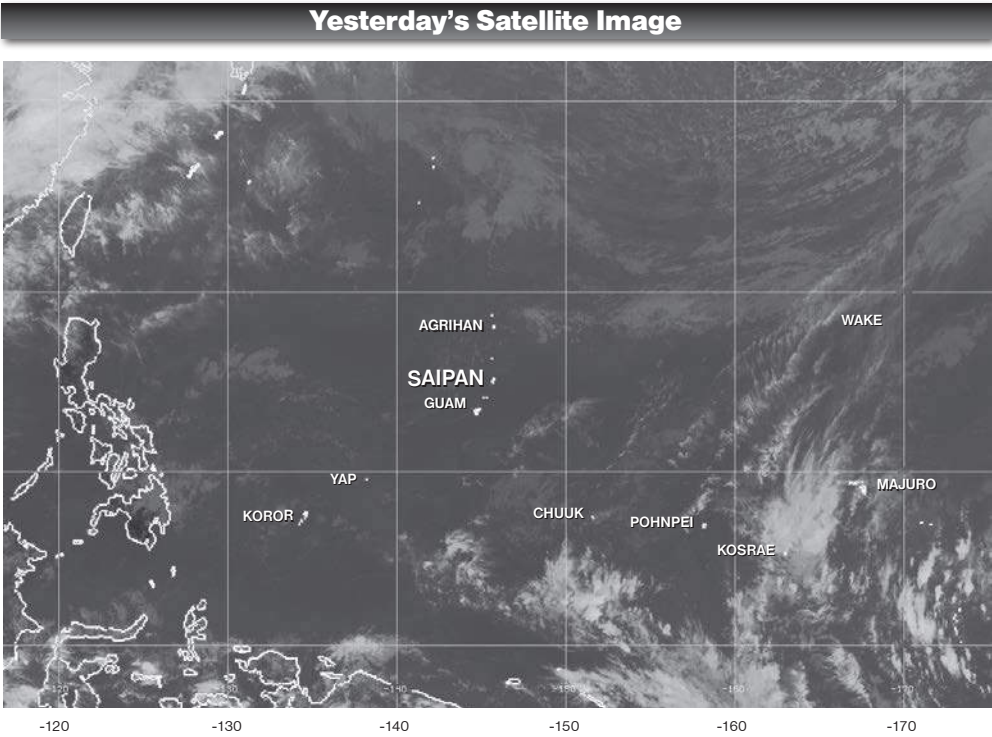
▲87° ▼75°

FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.

▲86° ▼75°



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly-stationary front curves southwestward from 25N180 to north of Wake Island at 22N166E then westward to 22N154E and northwestward to beyond 25N at 145E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and north of the front to beyond 25N. Also there are areas of clouds and patchy showers between 18N and 21N mainly from 148E to 165E. A surface trough runs from far southeast of Yap at 4N142E to end far southwest of Pohnpei at EQ155E. Widely scattered showers southeast of Yap are within 70 miles of a line from 4N142E to 2N148E, while scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk are within 90 miles of a line from 2N148E to 4N152E and southwest of Pohnpei near the equator within 75 miles of a line from 2N153E to 1N155E. A trade-wind disturbance near Kosrae is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 8N and 3N from 163E to 166E. Trade-wind convergence across the Marshall Islands, Butaritari and Tarawa is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in patchy areas between the equator and 6N from 169E to 180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87	▼ 72
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 89	▼ 75
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 91	▼ 75
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88	▼ 78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 77

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Showers	▲ 72	▼ 64
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 73	▼ 30
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲ 73	▼ 68
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 81	▼ 62
London	Rain	▲ 58	▼ 43
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 77	▼ 55
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲ 94	▼ 70
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 76	▼ 43
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82	▼ 73
New York	Rain	▲ 51	▼ 40
Osaka	Showers	▲ 66	▼ 53
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62	▼ 48
Pusan	Showers	▲ 61	▼ 53
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75	▼ 46
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71	▼ 41
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 62	▼ 48
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69	▼ 44
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 67	▼ 57
Washington, DC	Rain	▲ 68	▼ 19



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.86 Feet
11:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.83 Feet
4:53 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.77 Feet
11:38 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.05 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	3:17 AM	3:18 PM
Tuesday	4:07 AM	4:18 PM
Wednesday	4:56 AM	5:18 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	7:22 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM	UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM	UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM	UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
				UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN	OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
				UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
			9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily						
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Saipan Animal Shelter closes, temporary shelter opens

Last Friday, April 1, the Saipan Animal Shelter officially closed due to damage sustained from Typhoon Soudelor. The building had been condemned by the Department of Public Works and ordered to be vacated by the end of March.

Thankfully, 43 dogs and 11 cats were adopted out in the final few weeks, with one dog

even flying to her new home on Rota, and only three dogs and no kittens remain under the control of Saipan's Animal Control Officers.

The fear of having to do a mass euthanasia of a number of healthy dogs and cats due to lack of space never materialized, because so many adoptions took place and the Office of the Mayor of Saipan was

able to secure a temporary facility in As Perdido.

"We are grateful that we were able to reduce the number of dogs and cats under our control in the best way possible, by adopting the animals out to wonderful families instead of putting them down," said Spencer Marchadesch, Animal Control Officer Program Manager. "Our temporary facility will

house the few animals we currently have, and we will begin to address the public's concerns of stray dogs and house them at our temporary facility and continue to socialize them, treat them and get them ready to be adopted!"

"Just because our main shelter is closing doesn't mean that our work is stopping," said Beth Pliscou from Saipan

Cares for Animals. "We will continue our work of sterilizing, medicating and socializing animals at this temporary facility while the new facility is being built."

Plans for a new Saipan Animal Shelter, with better facilities to house Saipan's stray animals, are underway. Construction is believed to take between six and eight months.

"As always, if you are interested in adopting a dog or cat, please visit us at Saipan Cares for Animals on Facebook, or www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com," said Jason Hudy from SCfA. "On our Facebook page you can see the three dogs we currently have available, and we look forward to finding these animals homes in the near future!" (PR)

Triple J donates Mazda 3 to Hyatt Charity Golf Classic

Hyatt Regency Saipan was presented with a 2016 Mazda 3 Grand Touring Sedan for this year's 20th Annual Charity Golf Classic Hole-in-One prize from Triple J Motors.

Some features of the 2016 Mazda 3 sedan are a 2.5 liter, 4-cylinder SkyActiv technology engine that achieves up to 28 mpg on Saipan roads; a rear-view camera with an LCD screen; BOSE premium sound system; and, leather seating with a sunroof.

Triple J, a long-time partner of Hyatt, has always generously supported the Charity Golf Classic event as a Platinum Sponsor with donations of hole-in-one prizes. For all the enthusiast golfers, the 2016 Mazda 3 Grand Touring Sedan will be located in hole No. 17 on the LaoLao Bay West Course.

The proceeds of the event will go to assist this year's charity recipients, the Make-

A-Wish Foundation, a primary beneficiary and local non-profit organization, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, both of which are equally proud to be this year's recipients.

"For over 10 years, Triple J has participated in the Club at the Hyatt Golf Tournament not just because the Hyatt is a great client but more so that the money raised largely supports the Make-A-Wish Foundation and other local non-for-profit organizations. Helping children with life-threatening medical conditions designates the Make-A-Wish Foundation as quite possibly the most feel-good organization on the planet. The fact that the Hyatt Regency Saipan selects this organization to receive the funds raised makes Triple J feel good about them too!" said Jay Santos, Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Triple J Motors sales manager Ben Lizama, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive assistant Mariangela Mendoza, Hyatt Food and Beverage director Ty Pauling, Hyatt executive chef Gabriele Colombo, and Five Star Wholesale Foods and Triple J Truckload Store general manager Jay Santos.

Triple J Truckload Store general manager.

"As a long term partner in our annual tournament, Triple J has consistently delivered great hole-in-one prizes and provided the high-

est quality food-stuffs to our players on the course, and, at our poolside awards banquet. The support our tournament receives from Triple J ensures that we can maximize the donation to the tourna-

ment's beneficiaries," said Ty Pauling, Hyatt director of Food and Beverage.

Hyatt will hold its 20th Annual Charity Golf Classic event at LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's west course on April 23.

The last day for early bird registration is on April 18, 2016 at 4pm for a rate of \$100 per player. Interested players may register at Hyatt's front office. For more information, contact 234-1234 ext. 26. (PR)

BIG continues with bicycle rack donations



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

From left, Grace Christian Academy kindergarten teacher, Ms. Melissa, BIG staff Bonifacio Gonzales, Rochelle Cruz, Melanie Cruz, GCA principal, Ms. Connie, BIG staffer Estevan Borja Jr., and GCA Kindergarten students pose for a photo after GCA received its bicycle rack.

SAN JOSE, Tinian—The Bridge Investment Group continues with more bicycle rack donations to the following locations: Tinian San Jose Catholic Church; Tinian Christian Assembly/Grace Christian Academy; and the Tinian Public Library and Tinian Youth Center.

The organization representatives were very thankful for the donations. "This is a great addition for the church, now there will be no more bicycles parked in front of the office.



From left, BIG staff, Peter Villagomez Sr., Bonifacio Gonzales, Estevan Borja Jr., Melanie Cruz, and Father Rey Rosal pose after the Tinian San Jose Catholic Church received its bicycle rack



From left, Tinian Youth Center staff Lucia Javier, Margarita Borja, Lorrah Santos, Jacob Cruz, Kumiko Cabrera, and Dolores San Nicolas, BIG welding staffer Estevan Borja Jr., TYC staffer Fritz San Nicolas, BIG welding staffer Bonifacio Gonzales, BIG administrative staffer Rochelle Cruz, TYC director Bernadita Palacios, BIG safety officer Joe Raymond Manglona, and TYC staffer Herman Allen Palacios pose after TYC received its bicycle rack.



We extend our gratitude for the company's kind donation," said Father Rey Rosal.

"I was brought up in a household to value the act of giving, that there is greater joy in giving than in receiving. With this conviction im-

parted in me from an early age, it is such a great blessing to be a part of a growing company that believes so much in giving back to the community. My greatest passion has always been to assist people and this is defi-

nately a positive step in that direction," said BIG staffer Melanie Cruz.

The hardworking staff and management of BIG will continue to stand by its commitment of making a positive impact in our community. (PR)

'Money to help families with unmet housing needs'

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Lady Diann Foundation donated \$11,500 to the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts last Thursday in a simple turnover ceremony at the Governor's Office conference room. The money will be added to CARE's fund that will be given to families with still unmet housing needs like rebuilding their homes damaged by Typhoon Soudelor in August.

CARE, composed of 60 different groups in the private and public sector, is the lead agency that is helping families repair or rebuild their homes after Soudelor hit Saipan last year. Case managers from the American Red Cross helped in identifying the families with the most urgent needs.

Foundation vice president Geri Dela Cruz said Saipan residents had to do whatever they can after the typhoon. "That's why we launched the Road to Recovery campaign to assist the victims in rebuilding their homes. CARE has



partnered with a lot of groups and organizations for the long-term recovery program."

Foundation president Diann Tudela Torres said their

foundation has come a long way since Soudelor. "LDF was immediately launched after the typhoon. A lot of people from the mainland

wanted to help but don't know how. Our partners from the U.S. gave food, personal hygiene products, and other basic needs of the people of

Saipan after Soudelor."

"Skywalker [Communications Group] also did their share by hosting the Raise the Roof dinner where they gave all the proceeds to LDF. We just wanted to help rebuild the homes of a lot of families here on Saipan. We wanted to know that everyone is living comfortably," Torres added.

Fourteen individuals were the initial recipients of the money with CARE assisting their cases. LDF's Road to Recovery program came out with their own priority list with each level having a corresponding amount given

JON PEREZ

First Lady Diann Tudela Torres, right, joins the officers and members of the Lady Diann Foundation in last Thursday's check donation to the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts in a simple turnover ceremony at the Governor's Office conference room.

(\$1,000 to level 4; \$700 level 3; and \$500 level 2).

"We are hoping to finally bring closure to families who need the money most in order for them to rebuild their homes. It seems that everything is back to normal on Saipan but there are still a lot of families living in their yards," said Dela Cruz.

CARE president Alex Sablan thanked LDF and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' administration for the monetary contribution and assistance of various government agencies in their recovery efforts. "With the help of American Red Cross' disaster case management program, we made sure that all efforts were exhausted for the families to get funds but were denied grants by [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] or [Small Business Administration] loans," said Sablan.

The 14 recipients are Robert Crisostimo (level 2); Maria Aldan, Teresita Jose, Emeritha Rangamar, and Moses Rios (level 3); and Janet Cabrera, Ana Cepeda, Juana Dela Cruz, Maureen Deleon Guerrero, Carmen Fitipol, Tomilynn John, Ronald Manlona, Cynthia Mendiola, and Carmen Rabauliman (level 4).

Hunter to address basic needs of his 'boss'

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs acting secretary Robert Hunter said he plans to sit down with the heads of the nine divisions and programs under his office. He said that he wanted to know the views of the different heads.

"I've been handling administrative matters and financial matters since I was appointed. I haven't sat down with the

heads of the different divisions but I want to talk about what they wanted to see and have an initial discussion of their immediate needs," said Hunter.

He said the Office on Aging, which recently made headlines after director Walter Manglona was controversially fired by former DCCA secretary Laura Ogunoro, already has a full slate of programs.

"The *man'amko* has a whole slate of programs already there under director Walter

Manglona. The only concern is their Bingo machine needs repair and they need another vehicle," Hunter said.

"We want to get something working again in the other divisions. The DCCA is here to provide services to people. We are here to serve them. These are our clients, our bosses," added Hunter.

He said that he would review some of the programs implemented by each division and to see what needs to be improved.

"We want to put programs into the right direction. We will see what needs to be improved in some of the activities in each division," said Hunter, who is waiting for his confirmation hearing with the Senate.

The programs in DCCA's Tinian and Rota offices will

also be reviewed.

The Chamorro/Carolinian Policy Commission, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Division of Historic Preservation, Nutrition Assistance Program, Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, Child Care Development Fund, Child Care Licensing Program, Division of Youth Services, and Office on Aging are the programs and divisions under DCCA.

Hunter, who is in his 25th year in government service, was the executive director of the CNMI Museum before being appointed to replace Ogunoro more than two weeks ago. He previously served as acting DCCA secretary in many occasions and was also a former executive director at the Arts Council.

CUC: Rise in fuel prices result in FAC increase

Following a rise in the average fuel prices, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will increase the Fuel Adjustment Charge pass-through rate, previously known as the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause.

The current FAC fuel charge of \$0.09359 per kWh will increase to \$0.11283 per kWh effective April 1, 2016. As a result, residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will pay approximately \$9.62 more in their monthly billing.

CUC first instituted LEAC in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the rate.

The FAC is used to purchase fuel and serves as one of the two components that make up a CUC power bill. The second rate component is the electric base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt servicing.

CPUC granted CUC the ability to adjust the FAC rate based on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5 percent of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the FAC rate.

CPUC conducts periodic reviews of CUC's fuel charges to ensure that consumers pay no more or less than the actual cost of fuel. Although there is a slight increase in the April 2016 FAC, CNMI consumers have experienced an almost 60 percent decline in the FAC since mid-2014. (PR)

Three villages experience water service interruption

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the villages of San Vicente, Dandan, and As Lito experienced an emergency water service interruption due to two water lines that were damaged by Docomo Pacific during their fiber optic cable improvement project.

The Call Center received a call Friday morning at around 3am reporting that there was a water leak in the Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road area.

Water Operations Personnel were informed and repairs were initiated and completed this morning at 10am. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services Saturday morning.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Military to conduct training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The Air Force and Navy will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ April 4-5 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm

■ April 6 from 12:30pm to 4:30pm

■ April 7 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm

■ April 8 from 8:30pm to 11:30am

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the

training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)

FESTPAC delegates meeting today

There will be a mandatory meeting of all 2016 FESTPAC delegates today, April 4, at 5pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. Matters to be discussed include the \$50 non-refundable deposit from

each delegate, travel documents, lists of raw materials to be imported into Guam, and others. For more information, call the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at 670.322.9982/3. (PR)

Business

‘Fight for \$15’ minimum wage powers on with coast state wins

NEW YORK (AP)—California and New York—where almost 1 in 5 Americans live—are on their way to raising their minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and the activists who spearheaded those efforts are now setting their sights on other similarly liberal, Democratic-led states.

Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington are among the states with active “Fight for \$15” efforts, and even economic experts who oppose the increased rate see it gaining momentum.

“There is lots of pressure to do this,” said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former Congressional Budget Office director who is now president of the conservative American Action Forum, which says big minimum-wage increases cost jobs.

The idea faces headwinds in more conservative and rural states in the South and the Midwest. But activists believe the movement is picking up steam, even if their two big victories so far were achieved in two highly receptive places: trend-setting, liberal, labor-friendly states with a high cost of living and yawning gaps between rich and poor, especially in New York City and



Supporters of a \$15 minimum wage rally at the Empire State Plaza on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, in Albany, N.Y.

Silicon Valley.

“In the beginning, it looked impossible,” said Alvin Major, a fast-food worker and leader of the Fight for \$15 campaign. But now, “what happened in New York, in California, it’s going to spread around the country.”

Since the \$15-an-hour movement planted roots with a 2012 New York City fast food workers strike, it has gained ground amid the broader debate over income inequality.

Cities such as Seattle, Los Angeles and San Francisco have recently agreed to go to \$15 in the coming years, and Oregon’s minimum wage is headed to \$14.75 in Portland.

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders has been pushing for a \$15-an-hour standard nationally, while President Barack Obama has called more generally for raising the minimum wage. The federal minimum is currently \$7.25; 29 states and Washington, D.C., have set theirs higher.

Sanders’ primary opponent and a former New York senator,

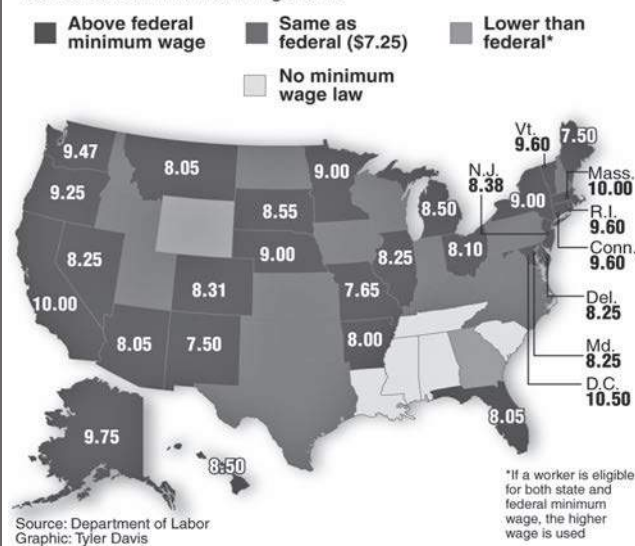
Hillary Clinton, has supported raising the federal minimum wage to \$12. Her campaign website says she also believes “we should go further than the federal minimum through state and local efforts, and by workers organizing and bargaining for higher wages, such as the Fight for 15...”

New York and California are now on track to have the highest. California Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat, is set Monday to sign a measure boosting the current \$10 rate to \$15 by 2022.

In New York, Democratic

Minimum wage

California Gov. Jerry Brown on Monday announced a plan to raise the state’s minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Here’s a state-by-state look at current minimum wage laws.



Gov. Andrew Cuomo and legislative leaders have agreed on a more complex plan. The \$9 minimum would gradually rise to \$15 in New York City by the end of 2018 and then in some prosperous suburbs by the end of 2021, but only to \$12.50 in 2020 in the rest of the state, with further increases to \$15 tied to inflation and other economic indicators. The measure headed to Cuomo’s desk after passing the Legislature on Friday.

New York’s graduated approach stemmed from negotiations with Republicans who worried such a sharp increase would devastate businesses,

particularly in the more fragile economy outside the New York metropolitan area.

Similar dynamics may play out in other parts of the country. While \$15 may seem reasonable in high-paying areas, “it’s a much harder lift in low-wage areas,” said Jared Bernstein, senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and former adviser to Vice President Joe Biden.

Also, California and New York have politically influential unions, strong community organizing activity and Democratic politicians eager to translate the movement into legislation.

Iraq’s PM orders probe into oil corruption allegations

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq’s prime minister on Saturday ordered an investigation into corruption allegations against senior oil officials following an expose into bribe-taking published in international media outlets.

In a statement, Haider al-Abadi ordered “immediate” action by both the anti-corruption commission and the judiciary following reports published by the Huffington Post and Australia’s Fairfax media into large-scale bribe taking by Monaco-based Unaoil company.

The report names four senior Iraqi officials as having received bribes from Unaoil between 2004 and 2012. They include former oil minister Abdul-Karim Elaihi and the outgoing higher education minister, Hussain al-Shahristani, who previously served as oil minister and deputy prime minister in charge of energy.

The publications said they drew on information gleaned from hundreds of thousands of internal emails dated between 2002 and 2012 for their six-month investigation.

The report said that Unaoil paid at least \$25 million in bribes via middlemen to secure the support of powerful Iraqi officials, while complaining internally that they were “greedy.” The report also accused the company of bribing senior employees working for international oil companies in Iraq.

Earlier Saturday, Hussain al-Shahristani denied he had been involved in any wrongdoing, calling on the two publications to hand over all the documents in their possession to the Iraqi government for the investigation.

“I have not met nor communicated either directly or through an intermediary or in any other way with any of the people mentioned in the period between 2010 and 2012 or before or after it,” al-Shahristani told reporters in Baghdad.

The revelations come as al-Abadi faces mounting criticism over government corruption and long overdue political reform. The government is highly dependent on the oil sector, which makes up 95 per cent of its budget.

SIDEBAR

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California and New York, two states set to approve a \$15 minimum wage, are among the nation’s most expensive places to live.

New Yorkers need to make 40 cents more than Californians every hour to earn enough for a normal standard of living, called the living wage, according to calculations by the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology.

While food, housing and transportation costs are similar, child care is typically twice as expensive in New York, and a single adult pays about \$600 less in state taxes every year in California.

Here’s how far a living wage goes in the two states, with figures based on the annual cost of living for a single adult, unless otherwise specified, and price parities showing how much

goods and services cost above the national average.

CALIFORNIA

Living wage: \$12.35 per hour, 40 hours per week
Housing: \$10,575
Food: \$3,607
Transportation: \$4,054
Child care (two adults, two children): \$9,869
Price parity: 12.3 percent
People living below poverty level: 16.4 percent

Population: 38.8 million

NEW YORK

Living wage: \$12.75 per hour, 40 hours per week
Housing: \$11,192
Food: \$3,509
Transportation: \$3,764
Child care (two adults, two children): \$20,250
Price parity: 15.3 percent
People living below poverty level: 15.9 percent
Population: 19.7 million

Orders for lower-priced Tesla hit 198,000

HAWTHORNE, Calif. (AP)—Demand for Tesla Motors’ new lower-priced electric car surprised even the company’s CEO Friday as 198,000 people plunked down \$1,000 deposits to reserve their vehicles.

“Definitely going to need to rethink production planning,” a surprised CEO Elon Musk said on his Twitter feed.

Musk unveiled the car Thursday night at a design studio near Los Angeles. It starts at \$35,000 and has a range of 215 miles per charge, which

is far more than most people drive each day.

The orders came from across the globe even though the car isn’t scheduled for sale until late in 2017. But they could jeopardize a \$7,500 U.S. electric car tax credit that many buyers are counting on to reduce the price. The tax credits gradually phase out after a company hits 200,000 in U.S. sales.

A Tesla spokeswoman wouldn’t say how many of the 198,000 orders came from the U.S.

Thursday night, Musk said Tesla had 115,000 orders since the company started taking them earlier in the day in Australia. There were long lines at Tesla stores from Hong Kong to Austin, Texas, reminiscent of crowds at Apple stores for early models of the iPhone. But the number kept rising into Friday.

“Thought it would slow way down today, but Model 3 order count is now at 198k,” Musk tweeted during the afternoon, saying the wait time for the car

is “growing rapidly.”

The news pushed Tesla shares to a Friday closing price of \$237.59, up 3.4 percent from Thursday.

The Model 3 is less than half the cost of Tesla’s previous models, and its range is about double what drivers get from current competitors in its price range, such as the Nissan Leaf and BMW i3.

On Twitter, Musk estimated that the average selling price of a Model 3 with options would be around \$42,000. So the sales would bring more than \$8.3 billion in revenue to Tesla.

Nation

In West, region of guns and suicide, outreach to curb deaths

MONTROSE, Colorado (AP)—Keith Carey is a gunsmith in Montrose, a town with a frontier flavor set amid the mesas of western Colorado. He's a staunch, though soft-spoken, defender of the right to bear arms.

Yet now he's a willing recruit in a fledgling effort to see if the gun community itself—sellers and owners of firearms, operators of shooting ranges—can help Colorado and other Western states reduce their highest-in-the-nation suicide rates.

"Suicide is a tragedy no matter how it's done," said Carey, whose adult daughter killed herself with a mix of alcohol and antidepressants a few years ago on the East Coast. However, he sees the logic in trying gun-specific prevention strategies in towns like Montrose, where guns are an integral part of daily life.

"It's very expedient for people to commit suicide by a firearm, without too much forethought," Carey said. "Unfortunately, it's generally effective."

At the urging of a local police commander, Carey agreed last year to participate in the



AP
Josh O'Neal, general manager of the Rocky Mountain Gun Club in Grand Junction, Colorado, stands in front of a display of firearms at the state-of-the-art shooting range.

In 2014, according to federal data, there were 33,599 firearm deaths; 21,334 of them were suicides. That figure represents about half of all suicides that year; but in several western Colorado counties, and in some other Rocky Mountain states with high gun-ownership rates, more than 60 percent of suicides involve firearms.

Along with Alaska, the states with the highest rates form a contiguous bloc—Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico. All have age-adjusted suicide rates at least 50 percent higher than the national rate of 12.93 suicides per 100,000 people; Montana's rate, 23.80, is the highest in the nation.

Between 2000 and 2014, gun suicides increased by more than 51 percent in those states, while rising by less than 30 percent nationwide.

Theories abound as to why such high rates. Commonly cited factors include the isolation and economic hard times in rural areas of these states. There's also belief that a self-reliant frontier mindset deters some Westerners from seeking help when depression sinks in.

"We embrace the cowboy mentality," says Jarrod Hindman, director of Colorado's Office of Suicide Prevention. "If you're suffering, suck it up, pick yourself up by your boot straps. But that doesn't work very well if you're suicidal."

Underlying all these explanations is the fact that firearms are more ubiquitous in the West than in most other parts of the country.

Catherine Barber, a suicide prevention expert at the Harvard School of Public Health, says residents of gun-owning homes are at higher risk of suicide than other people—simply because a suicide attempt is more likely to involve a gun. According to federal estimates, suicide attempts involving firearms succeed 85 percent of the time, compared to less than 10 percent of attempts involving drug overdoses and several other methods.

Gun Shop Project, a state-funded program in which gun sellers and range operators in five western Colorado counties were invited to help raise awareness about suicide. It's a tentative but promising bid to open up a conversation on a topic that's been virtually taboo in these Western states: the intersection of guns and

suicide.

Carey's shop counter now displays wallet-sized cards with information about a suicide hotline. A poster by the door offers advice about ways to keep guns away from friends or relatives at risk of killing themselves.

Carey says some customers take materials home, or ask a few questions. The conversa-

tions tend to be brief.

"Suicide is one of those morose subjects that a lot of us don't want to talk about," he said. "But it's all too common. I believe any method of suicide prevention is worth a good hard try."

Across the U.S., suicides account for nearly two-thirds of all gun deaths—far outnumbering gun homicides.

Parrot species in US cities may rival that in native Mexico

SAN DIEGO (AP)—U.S. researchers are launching studies on Mexico's red-crowned parrot—a species that has been adapting so well to living in cities in California and Texas after escaping from the pet trade that the population may now rival that in its native country.

The research comes amid debate over whether some of the birds flew across the border into Texas and should be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Parrots in U.S. urban areas are just starting to draw attention from scientists because of their intelligence, resourcefulness and ability to adapt. There is also a growing realization that the city dwellers may offer a population that could help save certain species from extinction.

Parrots are thriving today in cities from Los Angeles to Brownsville, Texas, while in the tropics and subtropics, a third of all parrot species are at risk of going extinct because of habitat loss and the pet trade.

Most are believed to have escaped from importers or smugglers over the past half-century, when tens of thousands of parrots were brought

into the United States from Latin America.

Scientists only now are starting to study them.

After doing most of his research in places like Peru, Donald Brightsmith is concentrating on the squawking birds nesting in Washingtonian palms lining avenues and roosting in the oak trees in front lawns in South Texas.

"Parrots in urban settings are of great interest to me," the Texas A&M University biologist said. "I see these as kind of future insurance policies."

Brightsmith has received a two-year grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to get an official count on the state's red-crowned parrot population and determine whether threats against them are increasing.

The loud, raucous birds have been shot at by angry homeowners and their young poached from nests.

In San Diego, a \$5,000 reward is being offered for information on the killings of about a half-dozen parrots found shot this year.

The research could help drive ways to maintain the population that prefers the cities and suburbs.

Trump on defense as he tries to regain momentum in Wisconsin

RACINE, Wis. (AP)—Following one of the worst weeks of his campaign, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was on defense Saturday as he kicked off a three-day sprint to Wisconsin's primary.

Trump began the afternoon with a rally in the Milwaukee suburb of Racine, where he defended a series of controversial comments in recent days on NATO, abortion and nuclear weapons.

"This politics is a tough business," said Trump, whose performance in Tuesday's contest will help determine whether he can seize the Republican nomination without

a fight at the convention. "Because you can say things one way and the press will criticize you horribly. You say it another way and the press will criticize you horribly."

Offstage, Trump expressed regret that he had retweeted an unflattering photo of rival Ted Cruz's wife, Heidi, paired with a glamorous photo of his own wife, Melania, as part of a bitter feud between the two men.

"Yeah, it was a mistake," he told New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd. "If I had to do it again, I wouldn't have sent it."

Among his biggest missteps have been Trump's recent comments on abortion, which

have managed to unite both abortion rights activists and opponents in their criticism.

During a taping of "Face The Nation" on Friday, Trump said he believed that, when it comes to abortion: "The laws are set. And I think we have to leave it that way." His spokeswoman, Hope Hicks, quickly issued a clarification that Trump meant that laws won't change until he's president and appoints judges who can interpret them differently.

It was the second time in days that he'd stepped in hot water over the issue. On Wednesday, he'd said women should be punished for getting abortions if they're ever

banned—a position the notoriously unapologetic campaign quickly reversed.

Trump told one audience on Saturday that his words had been repeatedly taken out of context, and complained he was being held to a different standard than his rivals. He called his comments on "Face the Nation" "perfect" and "so good."

"They took words out that I said," Trump told the rally, implying CBS had edited his answer about keeping abortion laws as they are. But the video made clear there was no editing in the exchange about abortion and his response was given in full.



ACROSS THE NATION

Los Angeles father charged with killing son for being gay

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles man charged with fatally shooting his 29-year-old son for being gay had repeatedly threatened to kill him over his sexual orientation, prosecutors say. Amir Issa, 29, was found shot to death just outside the family home on Tuesday. While the Los Angeles County district attorney's office charged father Shehadeh Issa, 69, on Friday with

murder as a hate crime in the son's death, investigators on Saturday still were trying to determine responsibility for a second killing at the home discovered by police at the same time, that of Amir's mother, police spokesman Officer Mike Lopez said. The mother, 68-year-old Rabiha Issa, had been stabbed repeatedly, coroner's Lt. David Smith said. Shehadeh Issa told police he shot his son Amir in self-defense after he discovered his wife's body in their house.

Plane crash kills 1 on freeway where it once landed safely

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A small plane that made headlines when it landed safely on a Southern California freeway years ago crashed on the same stretch of road Saturday, slamming into a car and killing a woman in the vehicle. Five others, including the pilot and his passenger, were injured in the crash on a stretch of Interstate 15 that has been the scene of several emergency landings. Witnesses said the sin-

gle-engine plane appeared to be having problems before it banked and came down, California Highway Patrol Officer Chris Parent said. One man said he didn't hear the plane's engine as it passed overhead. The Lancair IV landed on its belly and skidded about 250 feet before striking the rear of a black Nissan Altima sedan that was stopped on the shoulder of the road in San Diego County near Fallbrook. The driver of the car had pulled over to synchronize the Bluetooth device on his phone, Parent said.

Asia

Seoul: N. Korea fires missile and tries to jam GPS signals

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired a short-range missile into the sea and tried to jam GPS navigation signals in South Korea, Seoul officials said, hours after U.S., South Korean and Japanese leaders pledged to work closer together to prevent North Korea from advancing its nuclear and missile programs.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Saturday that authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un expressed "great satisfaction" after observing a successful live-fire test of a new anti-air weapons system, but didn't say when and where the test took place. South Korean military officials on Friday said they detected the North firing a surface-to-air missile off its east coast, and it wasn't immediately clear if the two were linked.

South Korean officials said the attempt to jam GPS signals, which began Thursday, did not cause any major disruptions of South Korean military, aviation and sea transport and telecommunication systems. However, more than 130 fishing boats reported problems with their navigation systems and some were forced to return to their ports, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said.

South Korea's Defense Ministry called the jamming attempt a provocation that threatened public safety and military operations in the South. A ministry statement warned North Korea to immediately stop the jamming efforts or face unspecified consequences.

South Korea has blamed North Korea for several previous jamming attempts. This week's jamming sig-

nals are the first since 2012, according to South Korea's Science Ministry. North Korean state media had no immediate comment.

The North's launch of a surface-to-air missile on Friday came three days after it launched a projectile that hit land in its northeast. South Korea's Defense Ministry and Joint Chiefs of Staff offered no immediate comment on whether KCNA's report on Saturday was related to Friday's launch.

North Korea has launched a number of short-range missiles and other projectiles since the start last month of annual South Korea-U.S. military drills it views as a rehearsal for an invasion. It also has repeated threats of nuclear strikes on Seoul and Washington and warned it will test a nuclear warhead and ballistic missiles capable of carrying it.

North Korea: UN sanctions on shipping 'inexcusable'

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Searches of North Korean ships under new U.N. sanctions that were imposed in response to Pyongyang's latest nuclear test are inexcusable and North Korea won't tolerate them, a North Korean maritime official said in an interview with Associated Press Television News.

Some of the toughest measures in the sanctions target North Korea's shipping network, which has long been under international scrutiny for the possible movement of weapons and other equip-

ment banned by previous U.N. resolutions.

"The U.N. Security Council should ensure the peace and security of the world, but it has abandoned its own mission and duty and it's violently trampled on international justice and impartiality," Nam Hyon Il, of North Korea's Maritime Administration, which oversees the country's shipping industry, said in an interview with APTN in Pyongyang on Thursday.

Nam called the sanctions "an infringement of maritime trade activities of a sovereign

state, which is inexcusable."

North Korea insists it will not accept any of the U.N. sanctions against it, including the latest round of restrictions announced in response to its nuclear test in January and subsequent rocket launch.

Inside North Korea, authorities and media always describe the sanctions as if they were forced upon on the U.N. by the United States. There is no acknowledgement of the role and opinions of China, North Korea's main supporter, in formulating sanctions against Pyongyang.

or detained in connection with the collapse of an unfinished overpass in Kolkata that killed at least 26 people. Rescuers continued clearing rubble from the scene of Thursday's accident. Sixty-nine people have been pulled out alive, but authorities said they doubted more survivors would be found. Three arrested employees of IVRCL Infrastructure Co., which was contracted to build the overpass, were to appear Saturday in court, where arguments for formal charges were to be heard, a police officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

Official: Road accident in Afghanistan kills 11

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says at least 11 people have been killed in a road accident just outside the western city of Herat. Rauf Ahmadi, spokesman for the provincial police chief, said Saturday that three vehicles were involved in the fatal crash, which wounded another seven people. He says the crash was the result of carelessness, and that women and children were among those killed and wounded. The crash took place Friday amid celebrations of the Persian new year, which began March 21 and is followed by 13 days of festivities, including family visits and picnics.

ASIAN BRIEFS

2 dead, many wounded as police disperse PH farmers

KIDAPAWAN, Philippines (AP)—Police clashed with farmers blocking a highway to demand government relief in the drought-stricken southern Philippines on Friday, leaving at least two demonstrators dead and dozens injured, including at least 23 officers, officials said. Police moved in to disperse about 6,000 farmers and their supporters who were demonstrating for the fourth straight day in Kidapawan, the capital of Cotabato province, when scuffles and gunfire broke out, police and Cotabato Gov. Emmylou Mendoza said. Mendoza said two protesters were killed and a journalist at the site counted 13 injured demonstrators. Provincial police chief Alexander Tagum said at least 23 police officers also were hurt. Two officers were in critical condition due to head trauma, said National Police spokesman Wilben Mayor.

India considers possible murder charges in overpass collapse

KOLKATA, India (AP)—Indian police said Saturday that they are investigating possible murder charges against 10 construction company employees who have been either arrested

World

Protests against migrants' presence in Greece and Turkey

IDOMENI, Greece (AP)—

A plan to send back migrants from Greece to Turkey sparked demonstrations by local residents in both countries Saturday, two days before the deal brokered by the European Union is set to be implemented.

At the same time, migrants stranded at a makeshift camp in this small town on Greece's border with Macedonia staged a protest demanding that the border be opened and that they be allowed to continue their journeys to central and northern Europe.

The migrants' continued presence led several dozen local residents to stage a protest Saturday morning. They blocked a road for about an hour to demand the evacuation of more than 11,000 stranded migrants to "transit centers" across the Greek mainland.

"The police know what they must do ... they must be issued orders," said Georgios Georgantas, a lawmaker with



Migrants block the main road to Macedonia near to Kilikis, northern Greece, Saturday, April 2, 2016. AP

the conservative opposition New Democracy party, who joined the protesters. He called for the "immediate" evacuation of the Idomeni camp "using violence, if necessary."

Idomeni residents alleged that some migrants had broken into empty homes in the town and said they no longer felt safe.

In the coastal Turkish town of Dikili, hundreds demonstrated against the prospect of hosting people expelled from the nearby Greek islands, especially Chios and Lesbos, where

there were over 5,000 migrants on Saturday morning.

Turkey is due to receive the first batch of returned migrants and asylum seekers on Monday. A plan to build a reception center in Dikili is unpopular with locals.

"We definitely don't want a refugee camp in Dikili," said the town's mayor, Mustafa Tosun.

Demonstrators expressed concern over the impact the EU deal could have on the economy, tourism and security in their town.

Syria cease-fire at risk as heavy fighting erupts

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's partial cease-fire appeared to be unraveling Saturday as fierce fighting between government forces and opposition fighters, including members of the al-Qaida affiliated Nusra Front, erupted outside the country's second largest city of Aleppo and other parts in the country's north.

At least 25 pro-government and 16 opposition fighters died in the clashes south of Aleppo, where the Nusra Front and rebel militias captured a village overlooking a major highway, a Britain-based monitoring group told The Associated Press.

The fighting was the most

serious in the area since the cease-fire, engineered by the U.S. and Russia, took effect Feb. 27. The violence in the north, along with heavy government airstrikes that killed more than 30 civilians near Damascus this week, threatened to completely dissolve the truce, which had sharply reduced overall violence across the war-ravaged country.

The rebel advances also risk drawing Russia back into the conflict after it shored up the government's position through a fierce bombing campaign that wound down nearly three weeks ago. The opposition's advances threaten to reverse some of the gains made by the

government during the Russian campaign.

Russia's Defense Ministry voiced complaints about cease-fire violations in Syria, saying that the Nusra Front has taken control over opposition groups around Aleppo.

A statement quoted Lt. Gen. Sergei Kuralenko, the chief of the Russian military coordination center in Syria, saying he informed his U.S. counterparts about the violations. He added that in the areas south and west of Aleppo, the Nusra Front has established full control over groups earlier listed among the legitimate opposition, referring to groups party to the cease-fire.

Passenger flights to resume Sunday in Brussels: Airport CEO

BRUSSELS (AP)—Partial, symbolic airline service will begin Sunday at Brussels Airport after a 12-day shutdown of passenger flights caused by a deadly bombing attack, the airport's chief executive said Saturday.

Arnaud Feist, CEO of Brussels Airport Co., said the Brussels Airlines flights to Athens, Turin in Italy and Faro in Portugal, the first of which he said should take off around 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) Sunday, were chiefly symbolic.

Effective Monday, Belgium's biggest airport should be back at around 20 percent

of capacity and able to process 800 passengers an hour.

It has been closed since devastating suicide bombings in the airport's main terminal and a Brussels subway train killed 32 people and wounded 270 on March 22.

Speaking at a joint news conference, Feist called it "a sign of hope" and a demonstration of "shared will" that even partial passenger service could resume so soon following what he called "the darkest days in the history of aviation in Belgium."

He said he was expecting the formal go-ahead from the Belgian government

later Saturday.

The March 22 attacks, in which three suicide bombers also died, were claimed by the Islamic State group. To minimize the chances of a repeat, Belgian Federal Police spokesman Michael Jonniaux said new security measures have been ordered at the airport, including spot checks of vehicles before they arrive, the closing of a drop-off parking area outside the terminal, and the screening of all people, their ID and travel documents and baggage before they are allowed to enter the facility.

Focus

Fears in Iraqi government, army over Shiite militias' power

BAGHDAD (AP)—It was a tense confrontation between two forces supposed to be on the same side in Iraq.

First, heavily armed police, led by the interior minister, waded into a Shiite militia base south of Baghdad and arrested its deputy commander, accused of organizing attacks on Sunni mosques. They loaded the man, Ali Reda, into an armored SUV.

Then militia reinforcements descended, surrounded the police and demanded Reda be freed. Weapons were drawn. The minister, Mohammed al-Ghabban, the highest figure in Iraq's police force, frantically called Baghdad from inside his SUV.

In the end, al-Ghabban surrendered his prisoner and left empty-handed, angry and humiliated.

The standoff in mid-January, described to The Associated Press by six different officials and militia leaders, was a stark example of the power that Shiite militias have accrued in Iraq and their boldness in wielding it.

These militias, many of them backed by Iran, mobilized in 2014 to fight Sunni extremists from the Islamic State group. However, they are now showing no intention of standing down after the battle, demanding instead to be a major force shaping Iraq. That prospect worries not only Iraq's Sunni minority but also officials in the military and the Shiite-led government, who fear the militias will dominate Iraq the way the Revolutionary Guard does Iran and the guerrilla group Hezbollah does Lebanon.

Two top generals warned that the army could eventually come to blows with the militias, known collectively as the "Hashd," Arabic for "mobilization."

"They (the militias) have now infiltrated the government and are meddling in politics," said Ali Omran, commander of the army's 5th Infantry Division and a veteran of numerous battles against IS. "I told the Hashd people that one day I and my men may fight them."

The more than 50 Shiite militias in Iraq have between 60,000 and 140,000 fighters, according to estimates from the government and the Hashd itself. They are backed by tanks and weapons, and have their own intelligence agency, operations rooms and court of law.



In this Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016 photo, Shiite fighters clash with the Islamic State group at the frontline in Tikrit, Iraq, 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of Baghdad. Iraq's Shiite militias, mobilized in 2014 to fight the Islamic State group, are now showing they have no intention to stand down once the fight against the Sunni extremists is over.

The larger militias, like Asaib Ahl al-Haq, the Hezbollah Brigades, Badr and the Peace Brigades, have been in place since soon after the 2003 ouster of Saddam Hussein. They are linked to political parties, effectively forming armed branches for politicians.

But the ranks of the militias swelled dramatically after IS overran nearly a third of Iraq in the summer of 2014 and Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shiite cleric, called on able-bodied males to fight IS. At the time, tens of thousands turned out.

Those same militias now want to remain a permanent, independent armed force and are resisting attempts to integrate them into the military or police, the AP found from interviews with more than 15 government officials, army generals and militia leaders and visits to Tikrit and Samarra, Sunni-majority areas where the militias now hold power. The militias insist they have earned a special status, pointing to the 5,000 militiamen killed and 16,000 wounded fighting IS.

"Those who sacrificed more are entitled to more," said Hamed al-Jazeery, head of the al-Khorasani Brigades militia. "What is written with blood cannot be removed. It is not ink on paper."

Al-Jazeery wears the black turban of a cleric and

the camouflage fatigues of a fighter. The walls of his office are adorned with photos of the leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and its current supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Other photos show al-Jazeery posing with Iranian Gen. Qassem Suleimani, the powerful Revolutionary Guard figure who helped organize the Iraqi militias against IS.

"We want to be a third power in Iraq," alongside the army and police, al-Jazeery said. "Why can't the Hashd be like the Revolutionary Guard in Iran?"

The model of the Revolutionary Guard, often cited by militia leaders, would be a dramatic change for Iraq's militias. In Iran, the Guard is an elite force independent of - and better armed than - the military, tasked with "protecting" the Shiite cleric-led power structure. It is effectively a state within a state, rivaling the political strength of Iran's supreme leader.

Sunnis fear such militia power would enforce Shiite domination of Iraq. Sunnis already accuse militias of targeting them with abuses. Hundreds of green and red Shiite banners and images of imams—historic religious leaders revered by the Shiites—are posted all over Sunni areas under militia control north and east of Baghdad, in

a blatant challenge to sectarian sensitivities.

The militias call themselves "holy" or "glorious," and often talk of their battle as a fight for Shiism rather than Iraq. They give Shiite names to major offensives, only for the government to ban their use.

"I joined the Hashd for the imams, not for the government," said one militiaman, Mohammed al-Azghar, in the central city of Samarra.

The official agency created to oversee the fighters, the Popular Mobilization Commission, has instead become the militias' political lever in the machinery of power. The government now funds the militias, but some of them refuse to even give officials the names of their fighters, citing security concerns.

"People fear and trust us more than they fear and trust the government," boasted Ahmed al-Assady, a Shiite lawmaker and spokesman for the Mobilization Commission. "They fear us because we act, not just talk."

Advisers from Iran's Revolutionary Guard and Lebanon's Hezbollah have helped Iraq's militias in the battle against IS. Billboards around Baghdad announce the "martyrdom" of fighters, alongside images of Iran's Khamenei and Khomeini and Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Militia TV channels and newspapers also accuse the govern-

ment of corruption and cast the militias as the true protectors of Iraqis.

In Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown north of Baghdad, the extent of the militias' prestige is on display: The headquarters of a senior militiaman, Jassim al-Husseini, is located at one of the late dictator's opulent palaces along the Tigris River.

The chain-smoking al-Husseini wears a military brown jacket and walks with a cane because of a leg injury sustained while fighting IS last year. He confidently spoke of the flaws of Iraq's government and said the militias cannot be integrated into its security forces.

"Integrating us in the security forces and the military is not an idea that will help build our nation," he said.

Now the militias demand to participate in a long-expected offensive to retake largely Sunni Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city and the main stronghold of IS rule in Iraq—something the military and armed Sunni groups oppose.

"The Hashd will take part in the battle to liberate Mosul no matter what," said senior Shiite politician Hadi al-Amry, who is also commander of the Iranian-backed Badr militia. "No one can stop us from entering Mosul."

In Samarra, Sunnis say they already experience what is

feared could happen if the militias enter Mosul. The city has a Sunni majority but is home to one of the most revered Shiite shrines, blown up by al-Qaida 10 years ago. In 2014, Shiite militias successfully prevented IS from taking Samarra and have kept their grip on the city since.

Local dignitaries and officials air a flood of grievances blamed on militias, including killings of Sunnis, takeovers of schools and the forcing of Sunnis to sell property in the prime real estate area close to the shrine. To the thud of artillery shelling in the distance, the city council's deputy chairman, Muzher Fleih, said 650 Sunnis have disappeared, believed abducted and killed by the militias. Among them was his brother, who disappeared last year and was found dead soon after.

"The city is oppressed," he said.

Militia leaders insist any abuses are isolated incidents. "We are not angels," said al-Assady, the Mobilization spokesman. "It is only natural that we make mistakes."

Some in the government and military are beginning to see the militias as a danger to the state itself. In a sign of wariness over the militias' autonomy, Shiite Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi charged recently that government funds to the Hashd were being mismanaged. One of his close aides told the AP that the comments were directed at Abu Mahdi al-Mohandes, the Hashd's most powerful figure, who is wanted by the United States in connection with the 1983 bombing of the American and French embassies in Kuwait.

There has also been friction with the military. Last month, militiamen refused orders to vacate a building in a military base north of Baghdad, and the army sent troops to take it over. They found the militiamen ready for a fight, with snipers stationed on the roof and in sandbagged positions around it. The dispute was resolved when a substitute building was found for the militiamen.

Since its 2014 collapse, the military has been slowly recovering. But Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi, deputy commander of the army's elite counterterrorism force, said the militias don't want the military to regain its strength.

"They may be tempted to take on the army if they don't have their way," he said.

Health & Fitness

High-intensity workout injuries spawn cottage industry

By **KELLI KENNEDY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI (AP)—After a few weeks of working out at CrossFit, Charles Banfield says his back hurt constantly and his joints felt terrible. The 47-year-old's aches and pains were so bad, he initially blamed his bed and purchased a new mattress.

After feeling a searing pain during a particularly grueling exercise, the Los Angeles-based CEO of an event planning company learned he'd torn his Achilles tendon.

"You miss one step and you could really hurt yourself," Banfield said.

Though there have not yet been in-depth studies, some chiropractors, doctors and trainers say stories like Banfield's have become more frequent with the increasing popularity of high-intensity interval training espoused by CrossFit and other similar hybrid workout gyms.

Such workouts include high-impact moves like jumping onto platforms and are performed during a shorter period of time, often without a break to maximize benefits, but some experts say they strain participants' bodies beyond what they're meant to endure as they sling sledgehammers over their shoulders and perfect headstand pushups.

The notion that people are overdoing it has spawned an offshoot industry aimed at delivering lower-impact exercise or to help those recovering from injuries to continue



In this March 17, 2016 photo, Jorden Gold, right, founder and CSO of Stretch Zone, demonstrates stretching techniques on Neill Broome, vice president of operations for the company in Boca Raton, Fla. Most CrossFit and similar high intensity workouts, that have become more frequent with increasing popularity, are not meant for average gym-goers, said Gold, who founded Stretch Zone. During the 30-minute sessions, therapists use bolsters and belts to stretch clients on a table from angles that are nearly impossible to stretch on one's own.

breaking a sweat but without exacerbating their problems.

Many people who do the high-intensity workouts aren't adequately conditioned for such rigorous workouts, or have back and spine conditions that could worsen, said Dr. Marc Umlas, chief of orthopedic surgery at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami, who said his office has seen an increase in injuries from workouts at CrossFit and similar programs.

"They plunge headfirst into a high intensity workout and they get injured," Umlas said.

Torn tendons and ligaments are a common result, he added.

"Every CrossFit athlete that

I see as patients, they have something going on as a result of being in CrossFit," said Dr. Tyler Kallenbach, a Los Angeles-based chiropractor who noted knee and shoulder injuries like torn rotator cuffs are common. He estimated 60 percent of his patients at one point were seeking treatment from CrossFit workouts, where Kallenbach says over-training is common.

"I've got a guy in here who needs his shoulder repaired, a girl who keeps throwing her back out repeatedly. It's always something with them," he said.

A spokesman for CrossFit says its likely more doctors are

seeing injured CrossFitters but only because so many people are doing CrossFit—not because it's a more dangerous workout. The brand has over 13,000 locations worldwide. A training program that's completely safe would be ineffective, company spokesman Russell Berger said.

CrossFit is known for varied workouts that include gymnastics-style moves like handstands and pull-ups, weightlifting, burpees, running and jumping onto platforms, performed at relatively high intensity.

"There's this view in the fitness industry that they treat safety as the golden calf, that



In this March 17, 2016 photo, stretching techniques are demonstrated in at Stretch Zone in Boca Raton, Fla. Some chiropractors and trainers say they're treating more injured clients as the high intensity interval training and hybrid-workout movement has exploded.



In this March 17, 2016 photo, Stretch Zone practitioner Morrida Chhan, left, demonstrates stretching techniques on front desk manager Priya Rajkumar, as Jorden Gold, second from left, founder and CSO of Stretch Zone, works on Neill Broome, right, vice president of operations for the company, in Boca Raton, Fla.

the most important variable in training is safety and that's just honestly not true. CrossFit is relatively safe and is as safe as anything else you could be doing," he said.

Although strength training while injured may seem counterintuitive, experts say it's the best way to heal.

"Stretching can be complementary to a rehab program, but the focus is usually on the strengthening. Often what we're trying to do is create a balance between strength and flexibility," said Dr. Kelly McInnis, a sports medicine physiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital who is a consultant for the New England Patriots and the Boston Red Sox.

Most CrossFit and similar high intensity workouts are not meant for average gym-goers, said Jorden Gold, who founded Stretch Zone, which has 33 locations in Florida and three other states. During the 30-minute sessions, therapists use bolsters and belts to stretch clients on a table from angles that are nearly impossible to stretch on one's own. Unlike massage, clients are clothed and are stretched in a room with several others.

"The majority have no busi-

ness being there in the first place. ... It's Olympic training," said Gold. "It's probably only (suitable for) a very, very small percent that go."

Los Angeles-based trainer Lauren Roxburgh has created an entire workout around the foam roller, a narrow tube often relegated to post-workout stretching, which she says can smooth out connective tissue, stimulate the lymphatic system and deliver highly effective core strengthening. Roxburgh noticed many clients struggling with injuries from high-intensity workouts and an obsession with training harder and longer.

"In our lifestyle it's been very much about the doing. ... It's all about pushing through, doing, doing, doing, and it hasn't been enough about the yin, which is the being, being in the moment, being present in our bodies," she said.

At LIT Method, a Los Angeles studio that specializes in low-impact workouts for those who are injured, clients rotate between cardio sessions on rowing machines and strength training using resistance bands. Sessions always end with foam rolling and participants' injuries are written on the side of their rower.

Quinn on Nutrition: Put down that salt shaker

By **BARBARA QUINN**
THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD

How much is too much sodium? Depends who you ask. According to the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans — based on the latest evidence from reliable research studies — more than 2300 milligrams (mg) of sodium a day may be harmful to your health. People with high blood pressure (hypertension) should not exceed 1500 mg of sodium daily according to these new guidelines.

Other experts don't necessarily agree, so what else is new? They point to studies that observed no direct link between higher intakes of sodium and a higher risk for heart attack. Furthermore, not everyone is sensitive to the

blood pressure raising effect of sodium; some people can eat tons of salt (well, maybe not that much) and their blood pressure stays normal.

We're not off the hook yet, though. Excess sodium can damage the body in other ways, according to new evidence reviewed by experts at the University of Delaware. It can damage the lining of blood vessels and contribute to "hardening of the arteries." Too much sodium can also weaken the heart and the kidneys, say researchers.

Additionally — especially for people with diabetes and high blood pressure — excess sodium puts the squeeze on blood flowing through arteries and can increase the risk for stroke and other types of heart disease.

So for the sake of our dear arteries, let's say we want to cut back on sodium. Here's what we need to know:

One teaspoon of salt contains 2300 milligrams of sodium — the current recommended daily limit. So less salt shaking is a good idea.

Most of the sodium we consume does not come from the salt shaker, however. Three-fourths of the sodium in our collective American diet comes from ... ready? ... restaurant meals and processed foods. (Processed foods are pretty much anything in a package.) Soups, sandwiches, chips, deli meats ... it's in there.

Start reading labels and compare the sodium content of your favorite foods. For reference, a food with less than 140 milligrams of sodi-

um per serving is considered "Low Sodium" according to regulations.

Replace high sodium foods with those high in potassium. Experts say potassium-rich foods such as fruits, vegetables, beans and low fat dairy products help counteract the harmful effects of excess sodium.

Don't panic. Our taste for salt is an acquired taste; the more we use, the more we think we need. When we start to cut back, our taste buds adjust very nicely.

By the way, there is very little difference in sodium content between the popular sea salt varieties and regular table salt. Although sea salt may have trace amounts of minerals like magnesium, potassium, and calcium, it is still salt — 40 percent sodium and 60 percent chloride.

Life & Style

WWE's WrestleMania looks to upstage NCAA Final Four in Texas

By DAN GELSTON
AP SPORTS WRITER

WrestleMania is always the biggest, baddest fight night of the year—and on Sunday, maybe of all time.

Forget the Final Four. The true extravaganza this weekend in Texas is WrestleMania.

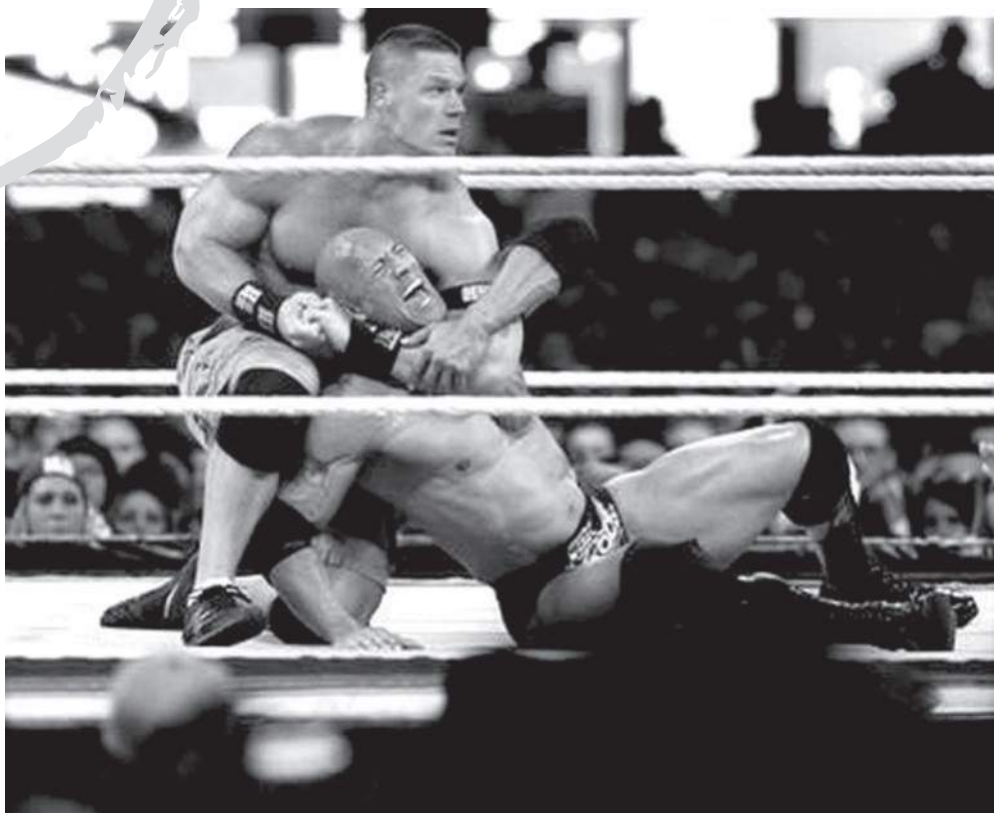
WWE is headed to a stadium worthy of a Super Bowl, and has lofty expectations of stuffing 100,000 fans inside AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

The roughly five-hour card is highlighted by three matches worthy of the main event.

“Triple H” Hunter Hearst Helmsley defends the WWE world heavyweight championship against Roman Reigns; former UFC champion Brock Lesnar fights Dean Ambrose in a no-holds barred street fight; and Shane McMahon takes on The Undertaker in a Hell in the Cell match.

“I love being in the ring, I always have,” Lesnar said. “I believe somewhere deep down when God created me that I was to be a performer in some way, shape or form, whether it was in the octagon, the wrestling mat or the squared circle.”

WWE has high hopes that not only will WrestleMania 32 top the 93,173 fans at WrestleMania III in 1987 and set the company's attendance mark, but that it can showcase the grandest card of all time.



In a Sunday, April 7, 2013 file photo, wrestler John Cena, top, chokes Dwayne Douglas Johnson, known as The Rock as they wrestle during Wrestlemania, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Just like in sports, injuries fractured chairman Vince McMahon's fantasy story lines.

Superstars John Cena, Seth Rollins and Randy Orton will all miss the show. Daniel Bryan, who won the WWE championship two years ago at WrestleMania, retired this year because of lingering effects of concussions. Sting, in one of the main bouts last year, is the headliner at the WWE Hall of Fame induction

ceremony on Saturday night. Even undercard wrestlers like Luke Harper, Neville, Nikki Bella and Tyson Kidd are out with injuries.

It's akin to the Golden State Warriors losing Steph Curry, Draymond Green and Klay Thompson right before the playoffs.

But the show goes on.

Not unlike at the college basketball Final Four in Houston, there are bench-

warmers (The Social Outcasts), bricks (a potential street fight weapon), flops (paging Ric Flair), jumpers (Kalisto's ring entrance), even big 3s (The New Day).

Every good game needs The Rock.

Dwayne Johnson takes a break from filming his latest blockbuster to return to an unspecified role at WrestleMania. He had UFC star Ronda Rousey by his side last year

in a verbal smackdown with Triple H and Stephanie McMahon that had fans clamoring for some sort of match at this year's WrestleMania.

Perhaps on Sunday, Johnson will return to aid his real-life cousin Reigns and layeth the smackethdown on some bad guys.

“Been working on a surprise or two for months now for the most important part of the show—the fans,” Johnson wrote on an Instagram post.

But each saucy storyline needs a twist, and maybe Reigns ending the show with his finishing spear on Johnson and holding the title belt high over his head as 100,000 fans boo him could become his one shining moment. It's fantasy booking for sure, so don't bet on that finish.

The actual matches, though, are fair game.

An online gambling company based in Canada, Bovada, lists Reigns at minus-700 to top Triple H and has Kevin Owens and The New Day among the other favorites on the card. Such odds aren't offered in Las Vegas, which prohibits betting on contests where the outcome is known in advance.

For fans watching on TV, WWE makes the show available on its own network for \$9.99 a month—and for \$59.95 on pay-per-view—and new subscribers will get

WrestleMania for free as part of a monthlong trial at WWENetwork.com. The Hall of Fame ceremony and a WrestleMania kickoff show on Sunday includes the Andre the Giant Memorial Battle Royal as part of the weekend's programming.

One of the company's top box-office attractions, Lesnar only wrestles on WWE Network events. Working on a part-time basis, Lesnar upped his schedule over the past year and has wrestled on the occasional live show.

“Vince got his checkbook out and he's writing more checks,” Lesnar said. “But I have a limit and we're at that limit right now.”

Lesnar has wrestled in some of Mania's more memorable moments—such as landing on his head during a failed flip off the top rope against Kurt Angle, getting booed out of Madison Square Garden in his final WWE match before a lengthy hiatus. He was WWE champion last year and lost the belt in a convoluted finish where he wasn't even pinned.

“This is a job and I'm not caught up into it like maybe I'm supposed to be,” he said. “I approach this as, I'm a skilled worker. I clock in, I clock out. People pay to watch me and, by chance, I guess they find me entertaining. ... When I look back and what I'm proud of is the money in my bank account.”

Don Cheadle channels Miles Davis to make directorial debut

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Standing on “The Tonight Show” stage with his trumpet in hand, Don Cheadle wondered to himself why he agreed to this. What was he thinking when he said he'd perform with the show's Grammy-winning house band, The Roots?

Nerves threatened to rumple his perfectly tailored suit. Cheadle had been diligently studying the trumpet to play Miles Davis in his new biopic, “Miles Ahead.” He spent a decade mired in Davis as he developed, produced, co-wrote and eventually directed and starred in the film. But this wasn't a movie set—it was a live TV show. And he was Don Cheadle, not Miles Davis.

Band leader Questlove called out a key and music style—“Blues, B flat”—and Cheadle lifted the trumpet to his lips.

“I just started playing and just kind of soloed. And I surprised myself,” Cheadle said

in a recent luncheon interview. “It felt like: Go ahead, put the horn to your mouth. Why have you been doing this? Play!”

Cheadle had been a Davis fan since his teens, when he played the alto sax and considered a career in music instead of acting. But he was never interested in portraying the jazz icon on screen.

“I wanted to be Miles Davis, not depict Miles Davis,” he said. “I wanted to actually go through the exercises and be in the creative space that he seemed to live his entire life in.”

Cheadle wanted to feel that unbridled, insistent energy. That's what should fuel any movie about Miles Davis. So he pitched a sort of “heist” film, where “what's being stolen to be his own voice and his expression and his creativity and he has to fight to get that back.”

“Miles Ahead,” open now in New York and Los Angeles and across the country April 22, juxtaposes two periods in



Don Cheadle, the star, director and co-screenwriter of the film “Miles Ahead,” poses for a portrait at the London Hotel on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, in West Hollywood, Calif.

Davis' life: his relationship with his first wife, dancer Frances Taylor (Emayatzy Corinealdi), and a multi-year span of drug addiction and creative stagnation about a decade after their divorce.

Cheadle wanted the story to feel like a piece of music that flowed in and out of its past and present, an inventive approach that would require Davis-style creative audacity

for a first-time feature filmmaker to achieve. So Cheadle approached the movie as its subject might have.

He was in full costume and character when Corinealdi first came on set and never broke to introduce himself as her director and co-star. He addressed her as Frances.

“The fact is he's a first-time filmmaker, but it never felt that way,” she said. “He was

always in control.”

There were, however, some things he couldn't control, like the movement of the Marvel Universe. After laboring for years to get his Davis biopic made, the timing of its green light meant Cheadle would miss half the film's pre-production because of previous commitments to “Avengers.”

“They're in first position on everything,” he said. “I was on that movie before I was on ‘House of Lies.’ And thank you, Marvel, because it allows me to do all this other stuff, and I like those movies.”

Cheadle can again be seen as his Marvel character, War Machine, in “Captain America: Civil War,” opening next month.

Because “Miles Ahead” took so long to come to fruition, enduring various rewrites and false starts and a worldwide economic recession that made some financing evaporate, Cheadle had Miles on his mind for a long time. He was there as Cheadle made multiple Marvel movies and earned repeated Emmy nominations for

playing Marty Kaan on “Lies.”

“In this period of time, I've sent kids to college and buried a parent,” Cheadle said. “There's just been so much that has happened while we were trying to get this going that, in some ways, probably found its way into the movie.”

Perhaps just as much, Davis' creative fire found its way into Cheadle. It's a feeling he calls “Meta-Miles.”

“That's so what I wanted to induce from this process and understand and make a part of my process: Be scared. Be on the edge of your creativity. Be willing to fall flat on your face and be in an unknown place,” he said. “If you're doing that, you're probably growing.”

So far, that approach has allowed him to direct and star in a biopic of an icon and play a trumpet solo on live TV, but it hasn't removed every creative fear.

When “Miles Ahead” was making its world premiere on closing night of the New York Film Festival, Cheadle was so nervous, he felt he might lose his composure.

Indonesia threatens to bar DiCaprio over rainforest comments

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Hollywood actor Leonardo DiCaprio may be banned from returning to Indonesia over his criticisms

that palm oil plantations are destroying the country's rainforests and endangering wildlife, an immigration official said Saturday.

Lopez says San Antonio incident is fodder for his series

NEW YORK (AP)—Comic George Lopez says he plans to use the recent flap over his remark about San Antonio as fodder for his new comedy on TV Land, which is loosely based on his life.

Lopez has apologized for slurring the Texas city onstage during a March 19 performance of the Comedy Get Down tour in a Seattle arena. The remark was recorded and posted online without context, angering many Texans.

"There's a lot of hate lying underneath," Lopez said in an interview. "If this one thing that I apologized for can create that much negativity for me in San Antonio, maybe I don't have the fans that I thought I did in San Antonio."

Lopez said he was trying to deflect ridicule for a fellow comic, who had just mistakenly referred to being in San Antonio when he was

onstage in Seattle. The comedy tour's previous stop was in San Antonio.

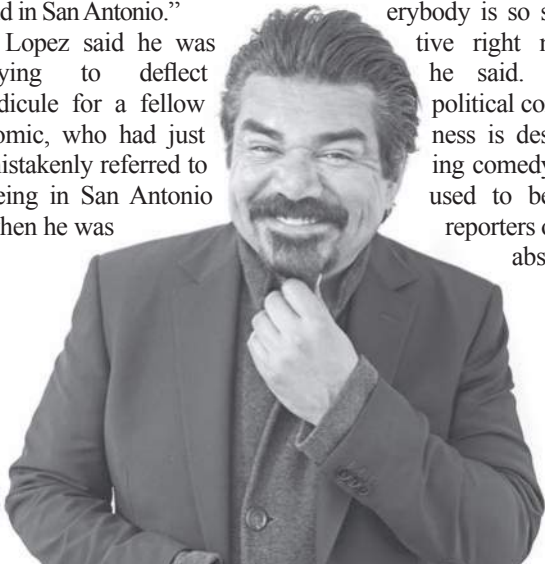
Lopez tried to heap praise on Seattle by saying, "You guys have outdone San Antonio. F--- San Antonio."

Once that clip was distributed, Lopez became the target of online critics. "George, you should have known better than to mess with Texas," was one of the clean comments.

"It wasn't even long," Lopez said. "It wasn't like I did a dissertation on what I don't like about San Antonio. But what I've seen and read is vile. To create things that are so insensitive and personal. I'm hurt."

There's a larger issue about comedy, he said. "Everybody is so sensitive right now,"

he said. "The political correctness is destroying comedy. We used to be the reporters of the absurd."



In this Thursday, March 31, 2016 photo, George Lopez poses for a portrait in New York. Lopez says he plans to use his recent high-tech tiff with San Antonio as fodder for his new comedy on TV Land, which is loosely based on his life.



The Oscar winner made a one-day visit to protected Mount Leuser National Park in northern Sumatra last weekend and uploaded photos to his Instagram account, expressing concerns over species whose habitats are threatened.

"The expansion of palm oil plantations is fragmenting the forest and cutting off key elephant migration corridors," he posted. "A world-class bio-

diversity hotspot, but palm oil expansion is destroying this unique place."

Heru Santoso, the spokesman for the Directorate General for Immigration at the Law and Human Rights Ministry, said that DiCaprio used his visit to discredit the palm oil industry and the Indonesian government.

"We support his concern to save the Leuser ecosystem,"

Santoso said. "But we can blacklist him from returning to Indonesia at any time if he keeps posting incitement or provocative statements in his social media."

Slash-and-burn practices destroy huge areas of Indonesian forest every year during the dry season, creating haze that pollutes neighboring countries and causes massive economic losses as well as

In this Wednesday, March 23, 2016, Actor Leonardo DiCaprio waves during a photo session of the movie "The Revenant" in Tokyo.

contributing to Indonesia's carbon dioxide emissions. The fires are often set to clear land for agriculture, including palm oil plantations.

Santoso said companies and organizations that objected to DiCaprio's comments have the right to request that immigration authorities bar him from reentering Indonesia, though none have done so yet.

He said DiCaprio entered and left Indonesia legally with a proper visa and immigration documentation. DiCaprio and his entourage arrived on a private jet at Kualanamu Airport on the island of Sumatra on Mar. 26, and the group took a helicopter to the protected park, and left the island a day later.

DiCaprio is not the first Hollywood star to anger Indonesia's government with criticism of how it treats the environment.

Demi Lovato, Caitlyn Jenner to receive GLAAD Media Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Demi Lovato and Caitlyn Jenner are among the recipients of the 27th GLAAD Media Awards.

The awards honor those who further GLAAD's mission of ensuring that stories of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are heard through media outlets.

Lovato is the recipient of the organization's Vanguard Award, which she received from Nick Jonas during Saturday's ceremony in Beverly Hills.

Jenner's E! Entertainment Television reality series "I Am Cait" was honored for out-

standing reality program. Jenner, who was born Bruce Jenner, is sharing the honor with transgender YouTube personality Jazz Jennings, who has a TLC show "I Am Jazz."

Other honorees included the film "Carol," and the Amazon Instant Video Series, "Transparent."

Highlights of the ceremony will air on the Logo network on Monday.

Vanguard Award recipient Demi Lovato performs during the 27th Annual GLAAD Media Awards at the Beverly Hilton on Saturday, April 2, 2016, in Beverly Hills, Calif.



Girlfriend chafes request to quit drinking for a year

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating an alcoholic for three years. He recently entered a treatment program because after his last binge he tried to kill himself. He seems to be committed to his program and staying sober.

He has requested that I stay sober with him for at least a year. While I'm fully committed to our relationship and support him, I don't feel that it's fair that I should have to completely forgo drinking because he has a problem. I'm not looking to go out and party every night—those days are over for me—but I'd like to enjoy an occasional beer with a friend or a glass of wine with my mom.

When I approached him about my doing so, he became upset. He said if I have this one exception, he believes the exceptions will continue and I will be at his old level of drinking. Do you think his request is reasonable?

SOBER IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR SOBER: That depends upon whether you, too, had an alcohol problem before your boyfriend joined the program and were his drinking buddy. If the answer is yes, I don't think his request is unreasonable. However, your boyfriend may be afraid that if you drink regularly, it may threaten his newfound sobriety. If that's the case, if you love

him, you should refrain for a year as he has requested.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have the same argument every year or so. It's about dancing with other people when we're out for the evening. I feel that "grinding" is sexual and that it's inappropriate for someone in a relationship to do it with anyone else.

I made my sentiments clear to her when we first started dating, but it seems that about every year when we are out, she'll start dancing with some guy in a very provocative manner. I'll get unhappy about it, but when I confront her, she gets angry with me and says that it means I don't trust her. I trust that she's not going to go off and sleep with some random guy, but I feel it is wrong because she knows how I feel about it. How can I get her to see it my way?

PRINCIPLED IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR PRINCIPLED: She already knows it upsets you, so try this. Get up, join her and her partner on the dance floor, and start doing the "sandwich." And make sure that the person in the middle is YOU.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is in poor health, and when his time comes, I would like to have him stuffed. It would be comforting to see him sitting in his favorite chair in the living room.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

That way I'd always know where he is, plus he wouldn't be asking me for another beer all the time. My kids don't like the idea. What about you, Abby?

DESERT HOT SPRINGS, CALIF.

DEAR D.H.S.: Grief makes people do strange things. I'm not sure you are thinking this through. Once you are finished grieving, you may meet someone you want to watch a game with and need that chair.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

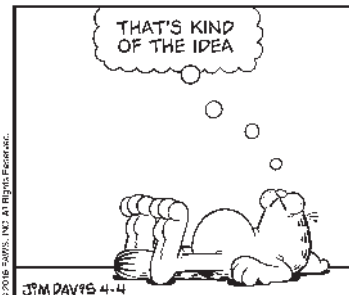
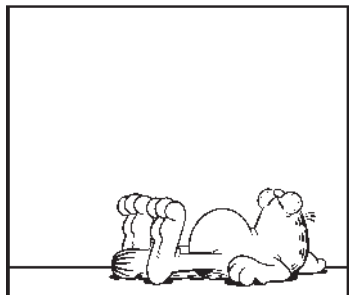
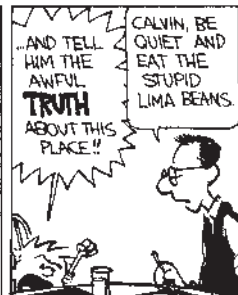
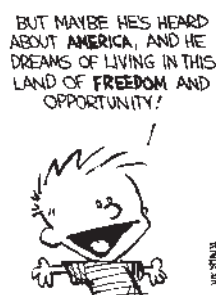
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

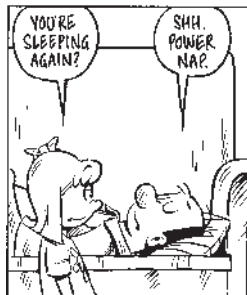


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

36 Half of 100
5 Flavor enhancer, for short
8 Pond growth
12 Tyrannize
14 Froth
15 "The Mikado," e.g.
16 Theater section
17 Apr. address
18 Naval clerk
20 Charlatan
23 Volcanic flow
24 Animation frames
25 Singer Lynn
28 — Tech
29 Direct (to)
30 Fix, as an election
32 Lasagna cheese
34 Diner's card
35 "Phooey!"

DOWN

1 Altar vow
21 Caboose
22 "— want for Christmas ..."
23 Barn areas
25 Bibb and romaine, e.g.
26 Not kosher
27 "— She Sweet?"
29 Street
31 Chap
33 Moon cavity
34 Snafus
36 Central points
37 Picture of health?
38 Top-notch
39 Part of N.B.
40 Stewpot
43 High card
44 Mao —
45 Hanoi holiday
46 Blond shade

Solution time: 27 mins.

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A	D	A	M	I	G	N	E	R	C	A
M	E	T	S	B	O	A	R	K	E	G

Friday's answer 4 - 4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Downey Jr., 51; David Cross, 52; Christine Lahti, 66; Craig T. Nelson, 72.

Happy Birthday: The help you offer and the improvements you make this year will lead to greater stability. If you are able to implement what you learn into your everyday life, it will encourage you to reach for higher goals and raise your expectations. Face the challenges that come your way with a positive, confident will to win. Your numbers are 7, 15, 21, 26, 32, 45, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't allow anyone to stand in your way. Look for ulterior motives and be ready to sidestep any negativity that comes your way. Be the initiator and control whatever situation you face. Stick to the truth and you'll come out on top. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't share personal information or gossip about others. Emotional matters will lead to complications if you don't resolve issues swiftly. Take advantage of a work-related opportunity. A romantic encounter will offer relief from stress. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be careful when sharing information or helping others. Do something that will benefit you, not someone else. A secretive approach will make your presentation that much more inviting when you are ready to move forward. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Refuse to get sidetracked by someone who is trying to get your attention by doing something

impulsive and pushy. Using your intelligence and intuition will help you get the results you want. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's up to you to change your mind or to head in a different direction. Follow your heart and do what suits you. Social networking and meeting with people who are just as cutting edge and goal-oriented as you will pay off. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): An enticing possibility may stretch your budget, but with careful planning and working closely with others, success can be yours. Do what it takes to stand out from the competition. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't waste time on someone who is demanding or pushy. Go about your business and make the alterations to your life or relationships that will enable you to follow through with the plans that will bring you the highest returns. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Opportunity is knocking. Attend functions that will allow you to flush out any uncertainties you might have about moving forward with your plans. Dealing with children or engaging in romance will ease your stress and give you added incentive. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Initiate personal changes that will improve your living arrangements or give you the added confidence to follow through with your dreams. Consider the source of negative information before you take action. Someone will try to make you look bad. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Rely on past experiences to help you make a wise choice regarding home, friends or family. Look for opportunities that arise due to someone else's lack of knowledge or experience. Someone's loss will turn in to your gain. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Call up an old friend or attend a reunion or event that will help you reconnect. Sharing old dreams will spark new ones. An unusual partnership can turn into a prosperous venture. Show off your talents and skills with confidence. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Protect your heart and your reputation. Someone will not be as open with you as you hoped. Emotional anger will only make matters worse. Strive to reach personal and professional goals and let your success speak for you. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are far-sighted and persistent. You are helpful, strong-willed and resourceful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		9		6			2			
6				5	8	3				
1	2		4				5	6		
4				9				7		
		6				5				
7			8						9	
8	7			1		6		4		
	9	1	4							5
5			3			2				

Difficulty Level ★

4/14

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	3	9	7	5	8	1	4
4	9	7	1	3	8	2	5	6
5	1	8	4	2	6	3	9	7
1	8	6	3	4	9	7	2	5
3	4	5	7	6	2	1	8	9
7	2	9	8	5	1	6	4	3
9	5	1	6	8	7	4	3	2
8	7	4	2	9	3	5	6	1
6	3	2	5	1	4	9	7	8

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★

13

STUMPED?

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By DAVID OUELLET

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Solution: 7 letters

C	D	C	P	T	N	E	R	A	P	S	N	A	R	T
A	I	O	K	N	O	I	T	I	N	G	I	P	A	N
R	E	M	R	F	U	E	L	H	I	G	H	L	V	E
B	S	P	A	G	P	R	N	K	A	Y	E	U	I	G
O	E	R	P	N	M	I	N	G	D	N	G	G	A	R
N	L	E	S	I	Y	O	S	R	I	N	O	S	T	E
C	T	S	T	P	C	D	O	T	I	N	E	L	I	T
A	O	S	R	K	G	O	T	O	V	E	E	O	E	
R	L	I	O	A	E	C	I	M	I	N	M	D	N	D
S	U	O	K	N	T	N	E	T	R	E	D	A	R	G
K	E	N	E	A	G	I	I	J	R	E	T	E	E	A
C	N	V	N	I	D	N	P	N	E	H	L	B	L	
U	E	E	L	R	D	U	U	G	C	I	M	T	M	L
R	H	C	R	A	E	S	E	R	A	T	I	O	U	O
T	R	O	P	A	V	E	H	I	C	L	E	A	N	N

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4/4

Additives, Air, Aviation, Carbon, Cars, Cetane, Clean, Compression, Detergent, Diesel, Engine, Ethanol, Fuel, Gallon, Grade, High, Hydrogen, Igniting, Ignition, Inject, Knock, Lead, Number, Octane, Ping, Piston, Plugs, Rating, Ratio, Research, Spark, Stroke, Supreme, Thermodynamic, Toluene, Transparent, Trucks, Valves, Vapor, Vehicle

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of : CIVIL ACTION
JOYCELYN ROSE CAVE PALACIOS, : NO. 16-0042
Deceased : AMENDED
NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Betty Ann Palacios- Cabrera has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Joycelyn Rose Cave Palacios, Deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on June 14, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 pm.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Joycelyn Rose Cave Palacios, Deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest of said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq. The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: March 18, 2016

/s/ Clerk of Court

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North Carolina looks for 6th NCAA title vs Villanova

HOUSTON (AP)—North Carolina will look for its sixth NCAA championship when the Tar Heels meet the Villanova Wildcats, trying for their second, on Monday night.

The Tar Heels (33-6) last won it all in 2009 and Villanova's only title came in 1985.

Both teams advanced to the championship game with lopsided wins, but Villanova's was far more of a blowout than North Carolina's.

The top-seeded Tar Heels beat 10-seed Syracuse 83-66 on Saturday night in a national semifinal for their 10th straight win. That was after the Wildcats made easy work of Buddy Hield and Oklahoma, with a 95-51 trampling that was the biggest margin of victory in a national semifinal game.

Villanova (34-5) did it with 71.4 percent shooting led by Josh Hart, who scored 23 points on 10 of 12 shooting.

That percentage was the second best in the history of the Final Four. The only team to shoot a higher percentage was that eighth-seeded team in 1985 eighth-seeded team coached by Rollie Massimino which shot 78.6 percent to pull an upset over Georgetown in the final.

"They shot the ball very efficient tonight," Hield said of Villanova. "If a team do this, I feel they can go win it all."

It won't be easy against the only No. 1 seed to advance to the Final Four this season. Coach Roy Williams has already led two North Carolina teams to championships and this squad has won each of its five tournament games this year by an average of 16.2 points.

Nevada sports books opened betting on the title



Syracuse's Trevor Cooney (10) drives against North Carolina's Nate Britt (0) and Theo Pinson (1) during the first half of the NCAA Final Four tournament college basketball semifinal game Saturday, April 2, 2016, in Houston.

fensively," he said. "We had a brain lapse there for about three minutes in the second half, but other than that I thought we were really good defensively against a team that's hard to guard."

The matchup on Monday could be interesting inside after both teams dominated in the paint on Saturday. Villanova outscored Oklahoma 38-20 inside and North Carolina had more points but the same margin by making 50 inside to 32 by Syracuse.

"Our main goal is to play a similar goal to what we played tonight, get the ball inside, really try to pound it in there and knock down our free throws," Meeks said.

game with North Carolina as a 2-point favorite.

Williams wasn't ready to talk about the next game just minutes after North Carolina had wrapped up its semifinal victory.

"Marty Schottenheimer, the coach of the Chiefs a long time ago, had the greatest saying in the world: 'Enjoy the dickens out of it until midnight and then worry about that other team,'" he said.

North Carolina has reached the title game for the 10th time and it will be just the third appearance for Villanova.

The two schools have some tournament history with the

Tarheels beating Villanova in the tournament on the way to their titles in 1982, 2005 and 2009. They downed the Wildcats in the national semifinals in 2009 before beating Michigan State for the championship.

The Wildcats seemed to handle their easy win exactly the way a coach would hope a team with its biggest game to come would. Forward Daniel Ochefu, who was one of six Villanova players to score in double figures, insisted there was no post-game revelry after Saturday night's victory.

"It was very businesslike,"

he said. "No one was celebrating. Everyone understands that our next game on Monday we'll be playing a great team and we're not celebrating. We told each other at the end of the game that we have a lot of work to do. We can still get better."

North Carolina also had a balanced scoring attack in its semifinal win with Brice Johnson and Justin Jackson adding 16 points each to go with 15 from Kennedy Meeks and Marcus Paige's 13.

But it was the defensive effort of the Tar Heels that Williams was most excited about.

"The last four weeks we've been much, much better de-

pernick, who completed just 59 percent of his passes with six touchdowns, five interceptions and a 78.5 rating before losing his job.

Kaepernick went 2-6 in eight starts last season before being benched, raising questions whether the quarterback who guided the 49ers to a runner-up Super Bowl finish following the 2012 season was still the best option under center.

New 49ers coach Chip Kelly said last month he had spoken recently to Kaepernick and was hopeful the mobile quarterback would still be on San Francisco's roster when the offseason program begins this coming Monday. It's unclear whether Kaepernick will be cleared to be in attendance on Day 1 - and the offseason program isn't required.

The Broncos' offseason program doesn't begin until Aug. 18.

Kaepernick meets with Elway



ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—A person with knowledge of the meeting tells The Associated Press that quarterback Colin Kaepernick met with Broncos GM John Elway at Elway's Denver home last week to talk about restructuring his contract as part of a trade with the San Francisco 49ers.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the talks, said they met Thursday, the same day Kaepernick's \$11.9 million salary for this season became guaranteed.

The San Francisco Chronicle first reported the meeting, the second in two weeks between Elway and Kaepernick, who has been recuperating in Colorado from several surgeries.

The Broncos are hoping to persuade Kaepernick to restructure his contract so he can serve as Peyton Manning's replacement in Denver rather than Blaine Gabbert's backup in San Francisco in 2016.

Because he wasn't released or traded before Thursday's deadline, Kaepernick doesn't have to accept anything less than \$11.9 million next season.

But the Broncos offer the chance to start for the defending Super Bowl champions with a stellar defense led by Von Miller, an improved offensive line bolstered by Russell Okung and a stellar ground game led by C.J. Anderson.

The teams would have to agree on draft pick compensation.

The Broncos have less than \$2 million in cap space and would have to do some more

financial maneuvering to make room for Kaepernick. They could gain some more room by trading or releasing left tackle Ryan Clady, who's due \$9.5 million in 2016 and missed all of last season with a torn ACL.

The Broncos, who lost Manning to retirement and Brock Osweiler to Houston in free agency, traded for Mark Sanchez and have 2015 seventh-round draft pick Trevor Siemian on their roster.

Kaepernick has been recovering from surgeries in Vail, Colorado, on his right thumb, his left knee, and on his non-throwing left shoulder to repair a torn labrum, which landed him on season-ending injured reserve after he lost his job last fall to Gabbert, a 2011 first-round draft pick.

Gabbert took over in November for the benched Kae-

SIDEBAR

It's defense that wins big games, even at the Final Four

HOUSTON (AP)—When the Final Four semifinals were over it was easy to look at the left side of the scores and be impressed.

Both winning coaches were much happier with the score on the right - that of their opponents.

Villanova's 95 points were certainly impressive, but how about the 51 points they allowed Oklahoma to score? That was 29.5 points below the Sooners' average.

North Carolina scored 83 points against Syracuse but it was the 28 points the Tar Heels allowed in the first half that set the tone for their path to Monday night's championship game.

As long as they keep playing basketball, it will always be defense that wins games, especially the big ones.

Villanova and North Carolina had different problems facing them when the night started.

The Wildcats had to contain All-American Buddy Hield while not allowing the other Sooners to start scoring in his stead. They did that by having everybody on the roster take a run at covering him.

"I don't think I've ever had more people ask me or send me more suggestions on how to stop Buddy Hield," Villanova coach Jay Wright said. "They either asked me what are you going to do, or said this is what you should do."

Wright had it figured out.

"One of the things we tried to do was switch onto him not specifically for switching, but to get different people playing him because he wears you out," he said. "We had everybody from Daniel Ochefu, our 5 man, guarding him, Darryl Reynolds guarded him. We did it so different guys were chasing him, moving off the ball, we were giving him different looks."

"He's so smart, he can tell who's covering him, how you're guarding him, what you can do to that guy. We were able to stay fresh."

"I think at some point in the second half, as a matter of fact, like eight minutes, he came out of the game. I thought, 'He's got to be tired. We must be getting to him now.'"

They were.

Hield, who came into the game shooting 46.5 percent from 3-point range, finished 1 for 8 from behind the arc and had nine points, 16 below his average and just the second time this season he was held below 10. He scored 37 against Oregon in the regional final to get to the Final Four.

"Just credit them (for) what they were doing," Hield said. "Made it tough on me throwing multiple bodies at me. ... They just played terrific tonight."

Royals begin defense over Mets, Waino vs Liriano



NEW YORK
(AP)—Andrew Mc-

Cutchen vs. Adam Wainwright in the first inning, Josh Donaldson and the bangin' Toronto Blue Jays teeing off later, then a World Series rematch in Kansas City.

Neat way to begin opening day.

The forecast at PNC Park calls for temperatures in the upper 30s on Sunday afternoon when McCutchen and the Pittsburgh Pirates host the first game of the 2016 season, facing the St. Louis Cardinals.

No worries, Pirates manager Clint Hurdle said. They played an exhibition game in Indianapolis on Saturday with snow flurries, light rain and wind gusts estimated at 40 mph.

"The weather was interesting and challenging," Hurdle said. "Today may get us ready for tomorrow because I hear we could have conditions like this in Pittsburgh."

Toronto-Tampa Bay and Mets-Royals are on tap, too, without any climate concerns.

Most everyone else opens Monday. Zack Greinke and David Price pitch for the first time with their new teams



AP
Grounds crew members prepare the field at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Saturday, April 2, 2016, for Sunday's opening day baseball game between the New York Mets and Kansas City Royals.

while NL Cy Young Award winner Jake Arrieta and the Chicago Cubs begin their much-heralded quest for a championship, visiting the Los Angeles Angels.

AL Cy Young winner Dallas Keuchel, Clayton Kershaw and Felix Hernandez also start

that day. So does Max Scherzer, coming off a season in which he pitched two no-hitters for Washington.

The Nationals and new manager Dusty Baker begin at Atlanta. NL MVP Bryce Harper and Washington had the best record in exhibition

play at 19-4-4.

"I know it's spring training, but when you win as much as we did, you kind of start to realize how much you like that and you want to continue to do it," Nats utilityman Chris Heisey said.

Detroit and Miami will be

the last teams in action, starting Tuesday at Marlins Park.

"I think we're ready," new Marlins manager Don Mattingly said after an exhibition game Saturday. "I feel like we've been ready for a little bit here."

So long, spring training in the

sun. Now the heat is back on.

"It's a different vibe, a little more laid back, the weather is always warm. But to get the season started where everything really counts and yes, I'm looking forward to that," McCutchen said.

In Kansas City, it'll be Matt Harvey of the Mets vs. Edinson Volquez. They were the starters in the final game of 2015 -- the Royals rallied at Citi Field in the clinching Game 5.

"It's impossible to simulate World Series atmospheres, but with them getting their rings and raising the banner and things like that, I think it would give a little bit of motivation," Mets captain David Wright said.

Fans at Kauffman Stadium will see something new: extra netting extending out from the backstop. After a season in which several fans were hit by foul balls, Major League Baseball recommended more protective nets.

Like the Royals and Pirates, the Blue Jays played an exhibition game Saturday. They took on Boston at Olympic Stadium in Montreal before heading to Florida.

The highest-scoring team in the majors boasts a bruising lineup with Donaldson, Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion, and open at Tampa Bay against All-Star Chris Archer.

Toronto center fielder Kevin Pillar said the travel schedule was "part of the life."

"In an ideal situation, this wouldn't be the way to start opening day," he said.

"But if you can't get excited about opening day, regardless of what the travel was like the day before, you're in the wrong industry because opening day is the most exciting day of the year," he said.

Aldridge, Leonard lead Spurs to franchise record 64th win



SAN ANTONIO
(AP)—The San Antonio Spurs got exactly what they were hoping for against the Toronto Raptors—a scare.

Kawhi Leonard had a career-high 33 points, LaMarcus Aldridge had 31 points and 15 rebounds and the San Antonio Spurs held off the Toronto Raptors 102-95 Saturday night for their franchise-record 64th victory.

San Antonio never trailed and topped its 63-win season in 2005-06. The Spurs also extended their NBA-record home winning streak to start the season to 39 games.

"We don't pay attention, nor are allowed to care," San Antonio guard Danny Green said. "It's fun to be a part of something big, or be a part of history or make history, but we're looking at the bigger pictures."

The Spurs were tested Saturday night even with the Raptors sitting Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan for rest.

Toronto pulled within four points with 3 minutes remaining, but San Antonio closed it out at the free-throw line, capturing their 48th straight home victory dating to March 2015.

"They're good at closing out games," former Spurs guard Cory Joseph said. "Kawhi was able to knock down a couple of shots and extend the lead

for them. He came down and just put us in a situation where we had to foul and they made their free throws."

Patrick Patterson's intense effort helped the Raptors outscore the Spurs 52-36 in the paint and keep the game close.

Norman Powell had 17 points, Jonas Valanciunas and Joseph added 16 points and Patterson had 12 points for the Raptors.

Aldridge and Leonard were able to push back Toronto's efforts, combining to shoot 22 for 35 and grab 21 rebounds.

It was enough to help San Antonio overcome what they deemed an erratic effort.

"It wasn't very consistent," Leonard said. "Tonight, we had a couple of leads, 10, 11, dropping down to two, four, so we just have to keep being consistent. We need to execute on the offense. When we have those leads by 10 or 11, we need to punch the other team in the stomach and blow up to a 20-point lead."

Tim Duncan won his 999th career game, all with the Spurs.

Duncan holds the league record for most wins with a single team. San Antonio's veteran leader doesn't care about records, but his teammates do.

"He's got a lot of miles on his body, and he still comes in

day-in and day-out, first guy in the gym, last guy to leave," Green said. "Same routine every day, lot of energy, great focus. It's tough to do, and I don't know how he continues to stay motivated playing 20 years and winning so many championships."

Emotions ran high 3 minutes into the fourth quarter when Patterson set a high and hard screen that sent Patty Mills reeling backward in front of the Spurs' bench. Gregg Popovich screamed for a foul, which led Patterson to scream and flail an arm at the San Antonio coach. Mills got revenge on the other end, draining a 3-pointer for an 80-70 lead after initially missing a 3-pointer that David West tipped back to him.

Pistons 94, Bulls 90

In Chicago, Reggie Jackson scored 22 points, Tobias Harris added 21 and Detroit overcame Jimmy Butler's first career triple-double to beat Chicago.

Marcus Morris had 16 points and Andre Drummond had 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Pistons, who remain on track for a playoff spot.

Butler had 28 points and career highs of 17 rebounds and 12 assists. Pau Gasol had 16 points and 14 rebounds.

Detroit is a half-game ahead of Indiana for seventh

in the Eastern Conference and 2 1/2 games up on ninth-place Chicago.

Trail Blazers 110, Heat 93

In Portland, C.J. McCollum had 24 points and made all six of his 3-point attempts to help Portland beat Miami for its seventh straight home win.

Despite the loss, the Heat still clinched a playoff spot after the Chicago Bulls fell to Detroit earlier in the evening. Miami came into the game tied for the third seed in the East but dropped to sixth with the loss.

The Blazers made 10 3-pointers to break a franchise record for 3-pointers in a season with 808. They are in sixth place in the Western Conference and have not clinched a playoff spot yet.

Damian Lillard did not play in the fourth quarter and finished with 18 points for the Blazers. Gerald Henderson came off the bench to score 17 points.

Hassan Whiteside led the Heat with 21 points and 13 assists.

Pacers 115, Sixers 102

In Philadelphia, C.J. Miles scored 25 points, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 3:39 left, and Indiana rallied to beat short-handed Philadelphia.

Paul George added 20 points, eight rebounds and

seven assists for Indiana, the eighth seed in the NBA's Eastern Conference. Rodney Stuckey scored 17 points.

Isaiah Canaan had 24 points for Philadelphia (9-68), which needs one victory in its remaining five games to avoid matching the 1972-73 Sixers for the worst full-season record in NBA history.

Jerami Grant had 20 points and nine rebounds for Philadelphia, which has lost 13 straight and 25 of 26. Carl Landry scored 19 points.

Kings 115, Nuggets 106

In Denver, Rudy Gay had 25 points and nine rebounds, Seth Curry scored 17 points and Sacramento beat Denver to sweep the three-game season series.

Darren Collison had 14 points and eight assists and Willie Cauley-Stein and Ben McLemore scored 14 points each for Sacramento, which played without DeMarcus Cousins and Rajon Rondo.

The Kings left Cousins and Rondo—their two best players—in Sacramento for the one-game trip. Cousins averaged 38 points, 14.5 rebounds and three blocks in two wins over the Nuggets this season.

Gary Harris led Denver with 19 points and Emmanuel Mudiay and Joffrey Lauvergne had 15 apiece.

Debut goal for Pato as Chelsea thrashes Villa

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP)—Alexandre Pato scored in his debut as Chelsea defeated 10-man, managerless Aston Villa 4-0 in a dominant display Saturday in the English Premier League.

The on-loan Brazilian struck soon after coming on as a substitute, converting a fine penalty after he was brought down by Aly Cissokho. Two goals from Pedro and a neat Ruben Loftus-Cheek finish sealed what was an easy victory for Guus Hiddink's side. Villa defender Alan Hutton was sent off late in the second half for a second yellow card.

The result provisionally moves Chelsea into ninth on 44 points, with the defending champion even beginning to dream of a European spot after its disastrous start to the season.

Aston Villa remains adrift at the bottom with only 16 points and could be relegated next weekend.

Villa, which parted company with manager Remi Garde on Tuesday following a disastrous four-month spell in charge, gave no sign of a late-season revival under caretaker manager Eric Black. A highly unimpressive display, in the midst of angry fan protests, was capped by Hutton's sending off in the 85th minute.

"I can understand the disconnect with the supporters," Black said. "We have to give the supporters something, not the other way round. It's been a hard season for them."

Loftus-Cheek scored Chelsea's first goal in the 26th, slotting home at the front post from Cesar Azpilicueta's cross.



AP Chelsea's Alexandre Pato, right, celebrates scoring his side's second goal of the game against Aston Villa, with teammate Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic, during the English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park, Birmingham, England, Saturday April 2, 2016.

the case, with Tottenham having won just one of its previous 21 league trips to Anfield. But none of those Spurs teams were genuine title-chasers like the current crop.

If it wasn't for Hugo Lloris, Liverpool would have been two or three goals clear by halftime as the goalkeeper saved from Daniel Sturridge and Adam Lallana (twice). Sturridge had the most clear-cut opportunity when he was played clear through by Coutinho, only to shoot straight at Lloris.

Liverpool needed only one chance early in the second half to take the lead, though, as Coutinho exchanged passes with Sturridge before opening his body and sidefooting into the bottom corner.

Coutinho was arguably the man of the match, with Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp describing him as a "genius."

The goal sparked Spurs into action and, after a sustained period of pressure, Christian Eriksen chased a lost cause and dinked the ball back into the box, where Kane beat marker Dejan Lovren with a swivel of his body and fired a low shot that curled inside the far post.

Tottenham midfielder Dele Alli twice miscontrolled with the goal in sight in a tense last 15 minutes, while Moussa Dembele had a low shot tipped aside.

Given the situation, this will go down as a missed opportunity for Spurs—despite this being arguably their toughest remaining fixture. Third-place

Arsenal is four points behind Spurs with a game in hand.

Man City 4, Bournemouth 0

In Bournemouth, Manchester City kept its dwindling title chances alive by beating Bournemouth 4-0 in the English Premier League, with midfielder Kevin De Bruyne making a fabulous return on Saturday.

Man City remained in fourth place, 12 points off league leader Leicester with seven games to go.

City started very quickly, with three goals coming in the first 20 minutes. Fernando struck following a corner, which was followed by a fine volley from De Bruyne, and a header by Sergio Aguero.

Aleksander Kolarov finished the scoring in second-half stoppage time.

"When you give a good team an early goal it gives them a lift and it makes it very difficult," Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe said. "It was a long game from 3-0 down so credit to the players that they did not cave in, but it was a difficult watch."

Bournemouth was 13th, 11 points above the relegation zone and looking safe.

City dominated a game that was less important for its slim title ambitions, than for warding off the challenges of West Ham and Manchester United for a top-four place.

City showed no sign of its recent poor away form, scoring three before Bournemouth properly settled.

After a lengthy injury, De Bruyne showed City fans what they've been missing; a brilliant performance which was illustrated perfectly by a fine volley for his goal. He was an integral part of City's apparent return to the form it displayed at the beginning of the season.

sea's first goal in the 26th, slotting home at the front post from Cesar Azpilicueta's cross.

Coming on for the injured Loic Remy in the 23rd, Pato made an instant impact in what was an impressive debut. His movement caused the Villa defense endless problems, with his first-half stoppage time goal coming from a penalty after he was fouled by Cissokho. Pato continued to impress throughout the second half, and played an integral part in both of Pedro's goals.

"I'm so happy today," said Pato. "During the game it was very easy to play alongside the guys. I'm tired but happy."

There was also a debut for



defender Matt Miazga. The 20-year-old American defender, bought from MLS side New York Red Bulls in January for \$5 million, made a solid start to his Chelsea career, dealing well with the few chances Villa created.

Tottenham 1, Liverpool 1

In Liverpool, Tottenham dropped two points in its pursuit of English Premier League leader Leicester by drawing at Liverpool 1-1, with England forward Harry Kane becoming a Spurs record-breaker in scoring the equalizer on Saturday.

Kane swiveled before burying a low shot into the far cor-

ner in the 63rd minute to earn Spurs a point at Anfield, canceling out Philippe Coutinho's goal for Liverpool in the 51st.

By scoring for the fourth straight league game, Kane reached 22 league goals for the season—more than any other Tottenham player has managed in a single Premier League.

"For me, he is one of the best strikers in the world," Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino said. "He showed again that I am not wrong."

With games running out this season, Pochettino saw it as two points lost rather than one gained as Leicester was handed another boost in its bid to become arguably the most unlikely title winner in English soccer history.

Leicester can move seven points clear of second-place Tottenham with six games left by beating Southampton at home on Sunday.

"We need to believe," Pochettino said. "In football, all can happen. It was difficult to come here and try and win the three points."

EASY

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History showed this was fourth and although it gained five runs in the fifth, it was not enough to bring the team back in the game, as the Falcons earlier added three more runs at the top of the fifth and had another eight-run production at the top of the last inning.

A 1-2-3 inning on McDonald's at the bottom of the sixth courtesy of a fly out at third and back-to-back strikeouts from Chris Gonzales capped the Falcons' easy win.

McDonald's used three different pitchers in the Falcons juggernaut from the fourth to sixth inning, but to no avail.

Kapileo paced the Falcons, as he went 4-for-5 and made three RBIs and three runs. Sandy Kani was only 2-for-3

and Serrano hit 3-for-5, but they added three runs apiece.

In the second game, the Little Legals walked away with the lopsided win two innings early after pounding IT&E in the fourth inning.

The Little Legals were only ahead by four, 4-0, after three complete innings, but drilled 12 runs at the top of the fourth to close the game quickly via 10-run mercy rule. Six of the Little Legals' players at the batting order went at bat twice in the pivotal fourth inning and three of them reached home two times. Only one player from the top of the order did not make it home for the Little Legals first eight runs in that inning—four of them were earned runs. Lucio Aldan was among those who batted twice and went 2-for-2 with two

runs, a triple, a double, and two RBIs. Justin Agulto also registered two runs, got an RBI, and recorded a triple and a double.

The bleeding finally stopped for IT&E when Delbert Sablan was called stealing second. Sablan earlier singled in his second at bat.

After getting the third and final out, IT&E was pressured to make one run after another to stay in the game, but it got none. Sablan, who closed out for the Little Legals, posted back-to-back strikeouts after allowing a double to IT&E leadoff batter Patrick Celis. The pitcher, who gave up another hit—a single to fourth batter Robert Tenorio—then picked up a grounder and threw to first base for the third and final out.

PAIRE

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Soeda, Riku Kohno, Taiyo Mizuguchi, Haruto Yoneyama, Yuzuki Sakakura, Araki Araki, Hayato Tsujiya, and Kakeru Tomotaka. The visiting squad was triumphant in its opening game against Shirley's 3-0 and it also prevailed against MP United Silver, 1-0. Vivid Blue lost to MP United Blue, 0-2, and settled for a scoreless draw against Paire.

Paire won its three other

games to rule the elimination round, as they topped MP United Silver, 3-0, Shirley's FC, 3-0, and MP United Blue, 1-0.

Meanwhile, Paire's Dylan Mister took the Golden Glove trophy during yesterday's awards ceremony, while MP United Blue's Rintaro Miyawaki brought home the Golden Boot plum. Vivid Blue's Soeda was awarded the MVP trophy.

MP United FC, which organized the weekend tournament, also recognized MVPs from each team. Julianne Hall was

Wong players made it to the board to help the team's cause.

Wong took a 21-13 edge at the break and never relinquished the driver's seat in the second half despite the efforts of the Ol'Aces' Troy Ngirarois. Ngirarois top-scored for the Ol'Aces with his 11 points.

In the T8-Warriors-Kanaka Gray tiff, the former were just too good for a young team like the latter.

The Warriors simply had too many offensive options to crush the hapless Kanaka Gray, whose players are still developing their basic skills and are just starting

to learn how to play as team.

Nine Warriors players graced the team's box score, while only four hit the board for Kanaka Gray. Jeffrey Omar had 12 points to lead the Warriors, who drew 9 and 8 markers from Ace Evangelista and Norita Ping, respectively. Trevor Quitugua and Teison Sulap added 6 apiece for the Warriors, while only Nunu Rastang drained more than two baskets for Kanaka Gray for his 6 points. Kenneth Kaipat and Anthony Lisua had 5 markers each for Kanaka Gray, while Jun Blas contributed 3.

SONICS

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Meanwhile, T8 Warriors and Wong prevailed in the two other matches last weekend.

The Warriors played in the first game and whipped Kanaka Gray, 50-20, while in the second game, Wong routed the Ol'Aces, 40-27.

Rickson Mungwughi led Wong's victory, firing 13 points. He put the finishing touches in Wong's win after drilling the team's last 7 markers. E.J. Abeja chipped in 8, while Christopher Austin added 7. Five other

Kagman vs Tinian in Settsu-Saipan Caging Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Kagman High School's Mina Muna goes up for a shot against two Tinian High School defenders during their boys division title game in the 2016 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



A Tinian High School player drives against Kagman High School defenders.



Kagman High School's Darion Jones, left, beats a Tinian High School player for the rebound.



A Tinian High School player faces two Kagman High School defenders.



Kagman High School's Roke Tenorio is sandwiched by two Tinian High School players.



Kagman High School's Andrew Palino pulls up for a shot against two Tinian High School defenders.



Kagman High School's Khalid Islam makes a layup against a Tinian High School defender.



Tinian High School and Kagman High School players get ready for the rebound play.



A Tinian High School player reaches for the ball in this rebound play.



North Carolina
looks for 6th
NCAA title vs
Villanova

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Royals begin
defense over
Mets, Waino
vs Liriano

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the Pacific Oceania Cup V pose for a photo at the conclusion of the one-day competition yesterday at the Navy Hill Field.

Paire rules Pacific Ocean Cup V

Easy wins for Little Legals, Falcons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Little Legals and Falcons demolished their respective foes in the Majors division of the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Falcons saw action in the curtain-raiser and crushed McDonald's 22-0, while the Little Legals dominated IT&E Regulators, 16-

7, in the second game.

The Falcons finished strong, scoring 19 of their total runs in the last three innings. An eight-run top of the fourth turned their precarious 3-2 lead to an 11-2 spread. The Falcons got three earned runs in the fourth off Alex Yaguel, Keoni Serrano, and Kyle Kapileo's RBI singles. McDonald's, on the other hand, was shutdown in the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Little Legals batter avoids being hit by a pitch during their game against IT&E in the Majors division of the SLLB last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire stole the thunder from host MP United Blue after pulling off a 4-2 win in a shootout during their title game in the Pacific Ocean Cup V yesterday at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

Dylan and Blake Mister, Kaden Church, and Maui Johnson scored for Paire. Dylan was also the winning's squad's goalie. Twelve other players were listed on Paire's roster for the co-ed U12 com-

petition and they were Marty Taisacan, Dominic Torres, Max Church, Ethan Taisacan, Mateo Guerrero, Eric Lee, River Kramer, Erin Frink, Doris Ayuyu, Keisha Deleon Guerrero, Beckham Richards,

and Casey Chambers. Cole Chambers coached Paire and was assisted by Logan Mister, while Derek Chambers was the manager.

MP United Blue, on the other hand, had Jeremiah Diaz and Dylan Kim on its roster and the two made one goal apiece in the shootout. Christopher Aninzo and Joshua Abragan were MP United Blue's coaches, while Randy Steele was the manager.

MP United Blue and Paire advanced to the finals after

placing in the Top 2 in the round-robin elimination. The visiting Vivid Blue from Numa-

zu, Shizuoka, Japan finished third in the preliminary and also ended up at third place after shutting down Shirley's FC, 3-0, in the consolation match. MP United Silver completed the field.

The Sachiko Tahara-coached squad brought nine players to Saipan. The list include Ibuki Tanaka, Manato

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PACIFIC
OCEAN CUP V
APRIL 3
GES I NAVY HILL FIELD

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Sonics dominated Kanaka Blue, 36-21, during the third game in the U15 division of the Inaugural Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics leaned on their much deeper bench to cruise to victory. The Jesse Tudela-coached Sonics had a complete roster for last Saturday's match and majority of them have played before in several youth leagues on Saipan, while Kanaka has a lot of inexperienced players.

With enough manpower, the Sonics built a 24-11 lead at halftime and never looked back to hand Kanaka its fourth loss in as many matches.

Sonics ease past Kanaka Blue



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sonics officials receive the ceremonial check donation from BSI Corporate Social Responsibility directors Rita Chong, left, and Geri Dela Cruz, right, last week at the BSI office in Garapan. The Sonics are currently competing in the Diaz youth caging and will also participate in a tournament in the Philippines.

Rafael Ordonia paced the Sonics with his 11 points, while

five of his teammates contributed at least 4 points apiece.

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